

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

American and Foreign Christian Union,

PRESENTED AT

THEIR ANNIVERSARY,

HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1857,

IN THE

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROOME-STREET, N. Y.



NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED AT THE DEPOSITORY OF THE SOCIETY,
No. 156 CHAMBERS-STREET.

1857.

TESTIMONY OF ECCLESIASTICAL BODIES.

From the variety of testimonials which we have received, in regard to the Society, and its worthiness of support, we submit the following :

General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church.—Resolved, That the Synod recommend this Society and its interesting and important work among the Romanists of our own country, and in Papal lands abroad, to the cordial and liberal support of the churches under its care and supervision, and recommend that *annual and effective* contributions be made in them in its behalf.

Evangelical Lutheran Synod of East Pennsylvania.—Resolved, That approving the design and operations of the American and Foreign Christian Union, and believing it to be admirably adapted to the work of diffusing the Gospel in its purity among the Roman Catholics both at home and abroad, this Synod commends it to the confidence and patronage of the churches under their care, and of the Christian community in general.

General Association of New-York (Congregational).—Resolved, That the American and Foreign Christian Union is admirably adapted to the work contemplated by its Constitution, and it is cordially commended to the confidence and patronage of the churches connected with this body, and of the Christian community.

Similar expressions of confidence in and commendations of this Society have been received from various Congregational Associations in New-England, which, for want of room, are omitted here.

Philadelphia Baptist Association.—Resolved, That while we rejoice in the present and prospective efficiency of the American and Foreign Christian Union, we cordially commend it to the confidence and patronage of the churches of this Association.

Other Baptist Associations have adopted similar resolutions.

New-England Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.—Resolved, That we commend said Society (American and Foreign Christian Union) in its operations to the confidence and co-operation of the churches within our bounds, in such forms and at such times as the Preachers in charge may deem most conducive to the interests of Christ's kingdom and the good of perishing souls.

New-York East Annual Conference, and other local Associations of the Methodist Church, north and south, have adopted similar resolutions.

General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.—Resolved, That the American and Foreign Christian Union meets the cordial approval of this Synod, and we bid it God speed in its important and highly useful operations: and to enable the Board of Directors to carry forward the work entrusted to them, this Synod recommend to the churches under its care, to take up, and forward to the Treasury of the Society, annual contributions.

Protestant Methodist Conference of North Carolina.—Resolved, That we, the members of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, do recommend the Society known as the American and Foreign Christian Union, to the members of our churches, as well worthy of their confidence and support.

General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.—Resolved, That this Assembly do cordially approve of the objects of the American and Foreign Christian Union, and do unanimously commend it, and its interesting and important work, to the patronage and liberal support of the churches under our care.

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.—Resolved, That this Assembly approve of the objects of the American and Foreign Christian Union, as set forth in the Constitution, and do cordially commend it to the confidence and patronage of the churches under their care, and to the Christian community.

The Synod of Illinois.—This Synod hail this Society as one of the most important agencies of the church to secure the conversion of the world, and to meet one of the great wants and dangers of the age.

The Milwaukie Convention (Congregational and Presbyterian.—We heartily sympathise with that Society in its efforts to save our own country from the power of Romanism, and to diffuse the light of a pure Christianity in Papal countries, and commend it to the prayers, and sympathies, and contributions of the churches in Wisconsin.

The Synod of Georgia say that, "In the wide field of Christian effort we find no work, calling for the aid and earnest exertions of the Church of Christ, more worthy of their support than the cause in which this Society (the American and Foreign Christian Union) is engaged. When we reflect upon the vast importance of having the word of God addressed to the minds of that portion of both our own population and also in foreign lands, for whose especial good this Society is laboring, we earnestly commend the cause of this Society to the cordial support of our churches.

"And that information concerning the objects of this Society may be more widely disseminated among our people, we further recommend the circulation of the Magazine of the American and Foreign Christian Union, the organ of that Society."

Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church of the New-York and Vermont District.—Resolved, 1st, That the American and Foreign Christian Union is engaged in a work which calls for the co-operation of all sincere Protestants, and that it ought to be sustained by the sympathies, prayers, and funds of our church.

Resolved, 2d, That this Conference recommends to the ministers in its connection to preach to their respective charges upon the claims of the Society, and to take annual contributions for its treasury.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION has taken the place and assumed the responsibilities of the Societies known as "The Christian Alliance," "The Foreign Evangelical," and the "American Protestant" Societies. In conducting its affairs, the following principles are faithfully observed, namely :

1. All donations made specifically for the work in the Home or Foreign Field are faithfully expended in that field, in strict accordance with the wishes of the donors.

2. In the employment of laborers at home and abroad, sincere piety, proper talent, and the possession of other qualifications necessary for the place and the work contemplated, determine the choice of the Board, irrespective of the ecclesiastical connections of the candidate.

3. In its operations abroad, the Society acts, wherever it is practicable, through the organizations, societies, boards, and committees, on the ground.

4. In publishing Books, Tracts, etc., the Society neither publishes nor circulates, nor aids in publishing or circulating, anything that is of a sectarian character.

5. When it becomes necessary for the Society's Missionaries to organize churches, whether at home or abroad, those churches are at liberty, when fully established in the faith of the Gospel, to connect themselves with such evangelical denominations as they may prefer.

6. In prosecuting its great work, the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION cheerfully extends its aid to the several branches of the Church of Christ which are found within the sphere of its labors.

IMPORTANT FACTS.

1. "The Society presents to the observation of the world a practical union of evangelical Christians, of different denominations, harmoniously engaged in the defense and propagation of the Gospel.
2. "The Society occupies a field of great extent and importance, to whose culture no other Society is exclusively devoted.
3. "The Society seeks the salvation of people whose numbers are immense, and whose religious condition is extremely unhappy.
4. "The Society is fitted for the work for which it was designed.
5. "From the nature of the case, the hope of comparatively early and valuable returns to the cause of evangelical religion, is warranted for all the outlay on the part of the Society.
6. "Past experience has demonstrated that other agencies patronized by the Christian community were not fully adequate to the work which needed to be done."

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—This Society shall be known by the name of **THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION.**

ARTICLE II.—The object of this Society shall be, by Missions, Colportage, the Press, and other appropriate agencies, to diffuse and promote the principles of Religious Liberty, and a pure and evangelical Christianity, both at home and abroad, wherever a corrupted Christianity exists.

ARTICLE III.—Any person may become a Member of this Society by contributing annually to its funds. Thirty dollars, paid at one time, shall constitute a Member for Life; and one hundred dollars, paid at one time, shall constitute a Director for life; and any person, on the payment of a sum which, in addition to any previous contributions to the funds, shall amount to one hundred dollars, shall be a Director for Life.

All Life Members and Life Directors of the American Protestant Society, the Foreign Evangelical Society, and the Christian Alliance, shall be Life Members and Life Directors of this Society. Life Directors shall have the privilege of meeting with the Board of Directors, and of participating in their deliberations and discussions.

ARTICLE IV.—The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries for Correspondence,—one for the Home, and the other for the Foreign Department,—a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, a General Agent for the Publication Department, and a Board of forty Directors, who shall be chosen annually, as hereinafter described; and in default of an election, the Directors last chosen shall hold their offices till others are elected.

ARTICLE V.—The Board of Directors, one half at least of whom shall be laymen, and twenty-four at least of whom shall reside in

the city of New-York and its vicinity, shall be chosen from the several evangelical denominations of Protestant Christians, but no more than one-fourth part from any one denomination. The Board shall be divided into four classes of ten persons each, one of which shall go out of office at the end of each year, but shall be re-eligible. The President, Secretaries, Treasurer, and General Agent shall be, ex-officio, members of the Board.

ARTICLE VI.—The Board of Directors shall have the control and disposal of the funds and property, of every name whatsoever, of the Society, and the direction of its concerns ; shall meet at least once a month ; and seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting regularly convened. The Board shall form their own rules for the transaction of business, take such security of the Treasurer as shall be deemed proper, fill all vacancies that may occur in their body during the year next following their election, and also all vacancies that may occur among the officers of the Society till the next annual meeting ; appoint Missionaries, Agents, and such Committees as the interests of the Society may require, and instruct them as to the field and manner of their labor, employ such means for the accomplishment of the object of the Society as occasions and exigencies may demand, keep regular minutes of their proceedings, and make an annual report of the same to the Society. The Board shall meet within fifteen days after the annual meeting of the Society, for the appointment of officers of the Society and Committees, and the transaction of whatever other business may come before them ; and subsequently monthly, or on their own adjournment.

ARTICLE VII.—The Board of Directors may admit, as an Auxiliary, any Society or Association organized to labor in the same field, according to the principles and upon the plan proposed by the Society, which shall agree to pay its surplus funds into the treasury of the Society, which shall send to the Secretaries a copy of its constitution and annual reports, giving the names of its missionaries and fields of their operation. And every Auxiliary which shall pay the whole of its funds to the Society shall be entitled to a missionary or missionaries to labor in such fields as it may designate, at least to the amount of its contributions, provided such designation be made at the time of payment. The officers of all Auxiliary Societies or Associations shall be, ex-officio, Directors ; and the annual contributors to their funds shall be members of the Society.

ARTICLE VIII.—The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the Tuesday preceding the second Thursday of May in each year, when the Directors shall be chosen, the Treasurer's account presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported.

ARTICLE IX.—No alteration shall be made in this Constitution, except by the Society at an Annual Meeting, on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, and by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

American and Foreign Christian Union.

THE ANNUAL SERMON.

The annual sermon in behalf of the Society, was preached in the Presbyterian Church on the corner of Fourteenth-street and Second-avenue, (the Rev. Dr. A. D. Smith's,) Sabbath evening, May 10th, by the Rev. JOHN FORSYTH, D. D., of Newburgh, New-York, of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

It was an able, eloquent, and excellent discourse, founded on Luke, 24 : 47, "Beginning at Jerusalem."

The audience in attendance was large and intelligent. The exercises on the occasion were highly appropriate, and sustained the interest of the hearers to the end.

The sermon should have a wide circulation. The thoughts it advances, and the reasonings it contains in relation to the missionary work entered upon by the Society, so conformable to Scripture and sound philosophy, cannot fail to do good, and a copy of it has therefore been requested for publication.

A synopsis cannot do full justice to the sermon or the preacher, but it may serve to exhibit leading ideas advanced, and the use which was made of them. We therefore make the following record.

Dr. Forsyth said :—

"One would have supposed that Jerusalem was the very last place to commence the mission on which the apostles were sent; and if this express charge had not been given to them by their Master, probably they would have so judged themselves. But no : here, in the very city where the Savior drank the very dregs in his cup of shame, where he had been condemned to death, buffeted, spit upon, scourged—in this city they must begin the work of a world's regeneration. Various reasons may be suggested as inducing the Savior to give this command.

"1. The apostles, as *witnesses*, were called to testify to certain *facts* which were the basis of the *faith* they preached. These were, the events of Christ's public life, his sermons, his miracles, his death, his resurrection. This command was a virtual challenge to skepticism to disprove these facts, if she could; if they could be disproved anywhere, it was in Jerusalem, where they were said to have occurred.

"2. That the Gospel might vindicate its claim to be the power of God unto salvation. If the apostles had been directed to pass by the city where with wicked hands the Prince of Life had been crucified and slain, it might have been supposed that there were some sinners beyond the reach of mercy; and therefore, as if to show that the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin, the heralds of his grace are charged to begin at Jerusalem.

"The Gospel, moreover, claims to be the means of quickening dead souls, as well as a revelation of pardon to guilty ones. And surely, if it would raise up from the pit such sinners as those of Jerusalem, it was adequate to encounter and overcome every form of human depravity.

"3. That a host of efficient missionaries of the cross might be at once raised up—men and women, who could tell what they had themselves seen and felt of the grace of the Lord Jesus.

"Results quickly proved that a divine wisdom had selected the first central spot of Christian effort. Long before the last of the apostles had gone to his rest, the Gospel was so widely diffused, that Paul speaks of it as having been preached in the whole world.

"Now the principles underlying this command have an important bearing on the missionary efforts of the church in the present day. The relation in which Jerusalem stood to the apostles and their mission, is in several respects not unlike the relation in which the largest part of nominal Christendom stands to the evangelical church and her mission, which is to subjugate the nations to the cross. Whether Romanism be *the* predicted Antichrist or not, one thing is certain: if *ours* be the true Gospel, Rome preaches a false Gospel.

"If the inhabitants of Tahiti or of China had known the religious condition of the nations of Europe, and had asked the first missionaries sent to them, 'Why have you passed by Spain, Italy, France? is the spiritual state of the people in these countries essentially better than ours?' what reply could they have made? Might they not have said to these venerable men, 'We thank you for bringing the good news of salvation to our dark and distant land, but we think that the church which sent you forth should also have made a beginning with nominal Christendom?'

"This is the field the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION proposes to cultivate; nor are reasons wanting to vindicate the enterprise.

"1. There is the consideration that millions upon millions within these limits, though nominally Christian, are really strangers to the Gospel. Such is the view which we must take of their condition, if our idea of religion and the Gospel be correct.

"2. The difficulties that impede the spread of the Gospel in these countries should only serve to give fresh stimulus to our efforts. They are confessedly very great, perhaps greater than any we may encounter in the wide field of heathenism; but to succumb to them, is to do dishonor to Christ our Master, and to the glorious Gospel of the blessed God.

"3. There is the claim which these lands have upon our sympathies, derived from the blood of martyrs, so largely shed for the testimony of Jesus.

"4. We should be encouraged by the results of successful effort. Just so far and so fast as the good work proceeds, we not only gain new ground, but one of the mightiest antagonists to Christ and his cause is converted into a cordial and co-operating friend. In this result, the missionary cause everywhere, and our own land in particular, have a very deep interest.

"It only remains to observe that our Society is a Union—a Christian Union. Our purpose is not to propagate this or the other *mode* of worship, but to make known to these blinded nations the only true *object* and the only true *medium* of worship. Our purpose is not to spread this or the other polity, but to proclaim that word of Christ which alone can give what these nations need—'spirit and life.'"

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Central Presbyterian Church on Broome-street, Tuesday morning, May 12th, at half past ten o'clock. The house was well filled, and on the part of the audience the attention was fixed, and the interest was kept up to the close.

The Rev. Dr. DE WITT, the President of the Society, took the chair at the time appointed, and the exercises were commenced by singing an original hymn, written for the occasion, suggested by the passage of Scripture, (Matt. 21 : 28,) "Go work to-day in my vineyard."

The whole congregation joined in the hymn, which was sung in the tune "Duke Street" with happy effect.

The Rev. Dr. DOWLING, of the Baptist Church in this city, read the first ten verses of the second chapter of the Second Epistle to the Thesalonians, and the first seventeen verses of the tenth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans; after which the Rev. Dr. MITCHEL, of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this city, led the audience in prayer.

EDWARD VERNON, Esq., the General Agent, read the Treasurer's report, from which it appeared that the receipts for the year, including the balance on hand at the beginning, were \$76,296 93, a sum larger than was received the previous year, by \$6,724 49.

An abstract of the Annual Report of the Board of Directors was read by the Rev. Dr. FAIRCHILD, one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the Society.

The Rev. JAMES PRESTLEY, of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of this city, (seconded by the Rev. Dr. MITCHEL,) moved the following resolution; viz:—

Resolved, That the Reports, extracts from which have just been read, be accepted, adopted, and committed to the Board for publication.

Mr. Prestley urged his motion by a brief and forcible speech, the leading thoughts of which were the *pressing need* that exists for *such labors* as this Society is putting forth—that the American community should be made acquainted with these labors, and aroused to a sense of the magnitude and importance of the work to be done in this direction—that no missionary work could be superior to it in point of importance or obligation—that the Papacy was the great obstacle to the conversion of the heathen world—that it was at this time stimulated to special activity—and that evangelical Christians, in regard to it, had devolved upon them a special responsibility.

The Rev. RUFUS W. CLARK, of the Congregational Church, Brooklyn, New-York, seconded by the Rev. JOEL MANN, of Kingston, Rhode Island, moved the following resolution; viz:

Resolved, That the friends of Protestant Institutions are under the most solemn obligations to make direct and vigorous efforts to preserve and extend their interests upon American soil.

In support of this resolution, among other things, Mr. Clark said—

“That he did not wish to seem to sound a note of alarm, but held that we are bound to recognize the existence of evils, and to take proper measures for their extinction. He believed that this country would continue to be Protestant. He did not believe that it would be overcome or be crushed by the Papacy. But if it is preserved in its Protestant purity, it must be by the use of appropriate means.

“He believed in the perseverance of the saints, but the saints must persevere to make the doctrine true. We must therefore look to the Papacy and its bearing upon the destiny of the Republic. American Christians are especially under obligations to recognize the presence of Romanism, to measure its forces, and resist its progress among them.

“We boast of our free government, of our public virtue, of our Protestant religion. But it seems the will of Providence that against every great good there should be planted a great evil. If we have freedom, we also have slavery

—if we have virtue, we have intemperance to corrupt it—if we have Protestantism, we have its antagonist, Romanism. Blessings and curses in this world are set over against each other, and God undoubtedly intended to try us, as he has tried every other nation. We need this discipline. If we cannot cope with Romanism here, with all our advantages, what claim have we to be the great missionary nation of the earth? A cannon or a bridge are tested before being used, and thus is God testing our nation. Some would leave Romanism to be met by indirect and invisible agencies. But he did not believe in allowing things to take their own way, waiting for the natural course of events. He would meet evil with a bold and determined front. Rome is fixing her eyes and her hopes upon this country, and in politics her adherents already hold the balance of power among us. Shall we refuse to open our eyes to her machinations because they are conducted secretly? He thought there was in this *secrecy* a strong motive to vigorous resistance of the power that practised it.

“He said, Romanists held no anniversary meetings such as Protestants hold. It would be instructive if they would. He would especially like to attend the anniversary meeting of the ‘Purgatorian Society,’ recently established by Archbishop Hughes, by which *fifty* cents are drawn annually from the pockets of all the members, under *pretense* of prayers to be offered, and also *to be effective* in delivering ‘suffering souls,’ of this land or any other land, from the flames of Purgatory into which at death they fell, or may fall when they die. But he thought they would not hold those meetings publicly.

“He urged the adoption of the resolution, because the Romish system is antagonistic to our institutions: Romanists are the enemies of education; they would take the Bible from our public schools; Rome is the enemy of virtue; Rome is opposed to internal improvements and the development of national resources.

“The speaker saw much encouragement in what had already been accomplished by the Society. In eight years a thousand converts have been made, ten thousand children gathered into Sabbath and other schools, and millions of pages of valuable matter on the subject of Romanism had been distributed.

“He said we owe a duty to our posterity. Our fathers transmitted unimpaired to us their free and religious institutions; we are bound to do the same to our descendants.”

Mr. Clark’s address, which occupied nearly half an hour, was listened to with lively interest and received with great satisfaction.

The Rev. Dr. KENNADAY, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, seconded by the Rev. Dr. HAWES, of Hartford, Connecticut, moved the following resolution; viz:—

Resolved, That the happy experience of our country, whose resources have been so remarkably developed under the fostering influences of a pure and scriptural faith, gives to the American churches a special mission to spread

abroad the blessings and benefits of a pure Christianity in all parts of the Papal world.

In urging the adoption of this resolution, Dr. Kennaday said:—

“It would seem strange that any argument should be needed to compel Christian hearts to a belief in such sentiments. Yet there is a reluctance on the part of the American churches to put forth their best and proper efforts in behalf of their brethren. Hence he liked the resolution. It contains, said he, two propositions which assume to be true, and from these draws a deduction in reference to the churches of our country. The first is, that ‘the happy experience of our country has developed remarkable resources.’ The other proposition is, that this development is attributable largely to the fostering influence of a pure scriptural faith.

“The prosperity of our Government is due to the fact that it was established under the clear light of Christianity. Mr. Webster, he said, held this view; and he made a quotation from what he at first called Mr. Webster’s second centennial discourse, but afterwards explained by saying, that it was the speech at the second centennial anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims.

“The existence of this Government began in intelligence; its corner-stone was laid upon the Word of God. After the Revolution had just been passed through, the American Congress, declaring that the success of the cause had been owing to the intelligence and virtue of the people and to the blessing of God, and that prosperity could not be hoped for without virtue or religion among the people, passed a resolution instructing a committee to purchase and import thirty thousand copies of the Bible from Scotland or from Holland. And when Washington became President, after his inauguration in New-York, his first act was to go from the Old Federal Hall, where he had been made the chief of the nation, to St. Paul’s Church, and there consecrate heart, and country, and liberty to God, in partaking of the holy sacrament. It is Christianity alone that has developed the resources of the country. The duty which the resolution deduces from these points is this, *that the American churches are bound to give a pure Scriptural faith to the dominions now under the influence of the Papacy.* This the speaker argued at considerable length and very forcibly.

“There are many,” he said, “who say, Let alone the Romanists. This spirit is like that of Cain, when he said, ‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’ It is like that of the elder brother in the parable, who wanted to hush the gladness of the rejoicings when he that was lost had been found and the kid was killed. All men on the face of the earth are our brethren. He drank with every other man from a common fountain of light. He looked upon every Jew as his half-brother. He looked upon every child of the Romish church, born and brought up in it, as part of his own blood and kindred, as being the offspring of the same common Father. And we are bound, said he, as we have freely received, freely to give. We are bound to use every effort, in the spirit of meekness, to bring these deluded men out of their snare.

"He did not wish to make all men think alike. It is impossible to do it. Charles V. of Spain became so disgusted that he could not make his people think as he did, that he left his throne and retired to a monastery. He there set to work making clocks. After he had made a great number of clocks, he was annoyed by their discordant ticking, and he tried to make them all tick alike—but he tried in vain. Then, on a sudden, it flashed upon his mind how foolish he had been in attempting to make *men think* alike, when even *clocks* would preserve their individual independence, and *tick* as they chose. He wanted all men to think, and to think independently; and in order that they might think independently, he wanted them to have the light and liberty of the Gospel of God. He referred to the intolerance of the Popish church; to its severe censorship over its believers; to its jealousy of losing them from its fold, and to its artfulness in winning proselytes to its errors; and after relating some instances showing the restricted liberty of American citizens in Popish countries, he concluded his address."

This able address, of which the above is but an outline, was listened to with deep interest and produced a very happy impression.

The congregation then rose and sung the hymn beginning with the words—

"Who but thou, Almighty Spirit,"

When the Rev. Dr. WILKES, of Montreal, Canada, who was present, (having that morning arrived in the city, but not expecting to speak,) was introduced to the meeting by the President, and made a brief and happy address.

He said, among other things, that—

"He had the advantage of being a liege subject of a lady, Her Royal Majesty Victoria. He supposed he must pass for a foreigner, though his tongue did not differ from ours.

"He liked the Report, because it has the right ring. It does not tell of Mary, but of Christ, the Savior, of whom the Apostle said, "Who loved *me* and gave himself for *me*."

"England is still a Protestant nation; it is "the other Protestant nation;" and each Sabbath in his pulpit, when praying for his own country, he prayed also for our nation. "He came from Canada, and there the system now under consideration is to be seen in full vigor. But as he left his home yesterday, he read of admissions to a convent, and among them one lady from Boston; and still the convent ladies say they never interfere with the religion of pupils. But the girls say they cannot believe the nuns, *they lie so!* and they say the nuns tease them so! They ask them if they will not be Catholics—they will be so happy!

"He would urge parents to be careful where they put their children. They may not only learn French, but something else. He observed that two young

ladies from the States were about to join the Catholic church. He urged the Society to keep Canada prominently in view in their operations."

At the close of the address by Dr. Wilkes, the President of the Society announced to the audience that the Rev. R. D. HARPER, of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Xenia, Ohio, who, it is understood, had set out from his home to attend this meeting, had not arrived. He therefore introduced to the meeting the Rev. W. D. ROSSETER, one of the District Secretaries of the Society, residing in the West, who, seconded by the Rev. P. J. LEO, moved the following resolution; viz:—

Resolved, That in view of the remarkable and unprecedented emigration of the present age to this land—an emigration from all climes, but especially from those of nominal Christendom; and in view of the providences of God in regard to this nation in preparing it for the same, the *American Church* has devolved upon it a special, peculiar, and important mission—no less than the emancipation and evangelization of the apostate portions of the nominally Christian world.

Mr. Rosseter commenced by saying:—

"Pride is an American sin, and he did not wonder at it, considering our origin, prosperity, and prospective destiny. But this morning he would speak in no such spirit: but as an American citizen, Christian, and minister, he desired to impress on the audience a sense of the glory and privilege of the responsibility devolved on this country."

The speaker developed this idea in a brief and happy way by some striking facts in the history and prospects of the nation.

He showed that "the emigration to this country is increasing in a rapid ratio, and becomes continually more multifarious, and it is mostly from nations nominally Christian." He said:—

"The providence of God has prepared for this emigration, by so long delaying the discovery of this continent, by permitting the persecutions of Queen Mary's day and subsequent periods in English history, by furnishing us so vast an expanse of fertile soil, by rendering necessary an exodus from the overstocked countries of Europe, and by peopling this land with a population of so thorough a religious Protestant character before this emigration commenced."

He spoke, also, of the interest of Catholic children at the West, in the schools established for them, one coming with his father's coat trailing to the ground, because he could get no other to come in; and of a Fourth of July celebration, when sixty Catholic boys were gathered in procession, each with a badge having an open Bible on it. Such interest as this, he represented to be general throughout his field. He asked the prayers and liberality of the church in behalf of the cause. He made a deep and happy impression upon the audience in respect to the work to be done in this country, and also of its practicability.

After a few remarks by the Rev. Mr. LEO, the resolution was adopted. The audience then united in singing the hymn beginning—

“From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator’s praise arise;”

after which the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. HUMPHREY, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The Society then proceeded to the transaction of the usual annual business, when the minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved. The vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by the expiration of the term of their office, was filled by the election of a class which will hold office for the next succeeding four years. The names of the persons chosen appear, in the proper place, in the list of the Directors.

Several Vice-Presidents were also elected, whose names are inserted in the list of Vice-Presidents.

A vote of thanks was passed by the Society, unanimously, to the Rev. Dr. Forsyth, for his able, excellent, and highly appropriate sermon, delivered before the Society on the 10th inst. in this city, and a copy was requested for publication.

The Board also, in the same manner, requested Dr. Forsyth to repeat the sermon, so far as his convenience and duties would admit, in the various cities in the vicinity, prior to its publication.

Votes of thanks were passed to the various speakers for their appropriate and excellent addresses, and the aid they had rendered the cause on the occasion.

Having directed the first meeting of the Board to be held on Thursday, the 14th instant, at their office in Chambers-street, at 4 o’clock, P. M., and afterwards on their own adjournments, the Society adjourned to meet on the Tuesday preceding the second Thursday in May, 1858, in the place to be determined hereafter by the Board of Directors.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT.

REV. THOMAS DEWITT, D. D.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

- REV. WM. ADAMS, D. D., New-York.
 REV. J. W. ALEXANDER, D. D., New York.
 REV. M. B. ANDERSON, D. D., Rochester, N. Y.
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EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is, with a special and exclusive emphasis, THE Savior;—*the* Savior to the exclusion of all others, and of any admixture of human merit with his work—*the* Savior, whose blood alone, at once, perfectly, and for ever, cleanseth from every sin—*the* Savior, with whom the believer is joined in one life, by a vital union, as a branch of the “true Vine,” as a member of Christ’s spiritual body—*the* Savior, in virtue of a direct, personal union with whom the believer *hath* everlasting life, is saved already, is partially sanctified, and shall at last be made eternally perfect in holiness and happiness—*the* Savior, who ever liveth to make intercession for us at the right hand of the Father, as the *one* Mediator between God and man, sharing this office with no other being, saint or angel, living or dead, and alone dispensing the blessings and graces of the Holy Spirit among the children of men—*the* Savior, of whom, when specially “filled with the Holy Ghost,” Peter said, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

This is the Gospel. This is the glad tidings of the kingdom of heaven. This is the word of life and salvation. It is “worthy of all acceptation.” He that believeth it “hath entered into rest.”

This is the Gospel. Now for the contrast between it and Popery.

Popery, both in teaching and in practice, robs our Lord of his exclusive claims as *the* Savior of the lost sinner; and it impiously makes him to share this honor with many partners, such as angels and archangels, martyrs and confessors, saints and saintesses, priests and bishops, and above all, with the deified and immaculate “Mother of God,”—all, and especially the latter,

hearers of prayer, stated and official advocates and mediators with God in the sinner's behalf; by their own merit helping in his justification, and acting as vehicles and dispensers of the divine gifts and graces to men;—and it still further subdivides Christ's sole and proper honor as *the* Savior, by ascribing a saving efficacy to sacramental operations, such as baptismal regeneration, priestly absolution, sharing in the pretended sacrifice of the mass, anointing with oil, and other charms magically working moral and spiritual results by Latin spells and sacerdotal manipulations; as also by papal indulgences, meritorious almsgiving, fastings, feastings, praying in an unknown tongue by the measuring-string of the rosary, adoration of images, pictures, crucifixes, and relics, wearing of consecrated amulets and talismans about the person, penances of various kinds, pilgrimages, subsidizing the priesthood, purchasing of masses, burial in hallowed ground, and expiatory suffering in the penal flames of purgatory. By these means, not to mention any more, (for many more there are,) Popery entirely subverts the Gospel, according to which Christ must be all or he is nothing. Popery infringes in a thousand ways upon his exclusive claim and glory as *the* Savior, materializing his worship, turning it into superstition, magic, idolatry, and Marianity. It is, in effect, a complete *series of substitutes* for the Gospel in all its parts; and it has invented for their defense a complete system of dogmas, such as Papal succession and infallibility, canonization, sacramental grace, transubstantiation, purgatory, and their cognate tenets. It puts in the place of *the* Savior and his peculiar work, communion with the Church of Rome in its assumed powers, blind faith in her priesthood and their mediation with the invisible world, and a self-righteous reliance on the sinner's own works, as a part of the price of his soul's ransom from the curse of sin. *The* Savior is thrust aside, thrown into the back-ground, hidden from view, and altogether supplanted by this crowd of inventions and corruptions.

Such and so extreme is the difference between Popery and the Gospel. Who that has sense to perceive this more than heaven-wide difference, will say that it is slight and of little importance? And as the Gospel is true, and all that denies and opposes it is false and anti-Christian, it follows that Popery is an

enormous scheme of degrading imposture and fatal delusion. It does not deny Christ in name; but what is incomparably more wicked and destructive to the souls of men, it *borrow*s his name to cover and sanction the perversions and abuses whereby it denies him in fact, nullifies the whole power of the Gospel over the human soul, and leaves it to perish miserably in its deception.

It follows, from this view, that as Popery has supplanted the Gospel, it is the highest duty of all who love the Gospel to do their utmost to destroy Popery, and to restore the Gospel to its own place in the faith and affection of all who are called Christians. There is the same reason for missions to the Papists, and the same necessity for them, as for missions to the heathens. Some may object to this sentiment, that the salvation of a Romanist, however doubtful or improbable, is not absolutely impossible. "All things are possible with God;" and it may be conceded that his abounding grace may so far prevail over abounding error and sin, as to beget a true and saving faith in the heart of a sincere Romanist. And some few names are known historically of zealous Romanists whose religious exercises, aside from their Romish sentiments and practices, seem to have been truly spiritual and scriptural. Though much clouded and darkened in mind by their errors and prejudices, the light of life appears to have penetrated their souls sufficiently to illumine them with that true life which is "the light of men." Persons converted to Protestantism have told of some they knew, old or young, "the simple faithful," who understood no religion but that in which they had been reared; but who seemed to have lived and died in the exercise of a filial feeling toward the Father, and an affectionate trust in Jesus and his atoning blood,—albeit, in their ignorance, they may have asked the Virgin to help them, and may have resorted to other superstitions against which their untaught consciences had never remonstrated. If it be so, let us adore the matchless and miraculous grace of God, which, if he will, can keep "the vital spark of heavenly flame" from being quenched even at the bottom of the sea. But such cases, if any there be, can only be regarded as exceptional and strange. The occurrence of such cases no more supersedes the need of missions to the Romanists generally, than the instances of pious heathens may render superfluous the send-

ing of missions to Pagans. The Apostle says that "the Gentiles, which have not the law [revelation] do by nature the things contained in the law, these having not the law, are a law unto themselves, which show the works of the law [such works as the revelation would have demanded] written upon their heart." The case of such Gentiles may be a mere hypothesis; and it may be that the Apostle does not assert that any such Gentiles ever, in fact, existed, but only what would be their condition, and the hope of their salvation, on the supposition that any such did actually exist. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that a sovereign God could, if he pleased, by his Holy Spirit work such dispositions in the soul of an otherwise uninstructed heathen as to make him meet for heaven through the grace of Christ. And history, and the records of missionary exploration, have made mention of some very few "virtuous heathen" in whom apparently something of this kind had been wrought. But even if such examples were far more common than there is any reason to suppose, they would not abate the necessity of Christian missions to the Gentile world. And no more can all the examples of a sincere piety which can be imagined among the benighted Romanists, diminish the need of sending to them the light of life, the light of Gospel-truth. By the pious souls, few and scattered, which may possibly be found among them, this clearer light will be hailed with unspeakable joy. And to the vast multitudes who are sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and who, though called *Christians*, have not the slightest notion of the answer that Peter or Paul would give to the question, "What must I do to be saved?"—to these the light of God's word is as pressing a need as it is to the most benighted of the perishing heathen, and they are perishing as miserably for want of it.

But suppose the state of the Roman Church not to be one of open apostacy and anti-Christianism. Let us, for the argument's sake, consider it, as some Protestants affect to do, to be only a state of backsliding—a bad and deplorable state, but not so far gone as to amount to utter defection from Christ and his religion. Let us for a moment look upon it as a true, though very impure, church of God.

Even in this mildest and most favorable view of the case, it

is no less our duty to labor to reclaim them to the sincerity of the Gospel faith and worship. Nay, in this view, this duty is even more imperative. For, according to the principles of the Gospel, and the prescribed order and discipline of God's house, the first duty of a true and living church is toward her own backsliding members. To recover them from their lapsed condition is to be the object of her most ardent prayers and her most earnest efforts. Till this shall be done, and she shall purify herself by cutting off the diseased members, or by healing them and bringing them back to a sound and healthy condition, she has no right to expect the favor of God, or to plead for the fulfillment of his promises. If the many millions of Romanists, though all of them backsliders, are still members of the true church and in its communion, we are far more bound to labor for their spiritual restoration, viewing them as fallen brethren, than we are to exert ourselves for the heathen, or any other sinners who are *extra Ecclesiam* and beyond the pale of the covenant. This obligation is the more pressing, because the Papists, on this supposition, are an overwhelming majority in the visible church; and who ever heard of God as reviving his work in a church where such an overwhelming majority is in such a shamefully backslidden state, *and where, at the same time, the sound members were doing little or nothing to heal the backslidings of their brethren!*

Thus, even in this mildest possible view of their condition, (which we are far from holding, regarding Rome as the Apocalyptic beast and harlot, the mother of abominations, and the Man of Sin foretold in so many inspired scriptures,) yet even were it possible to regard them as a sort of "backsliding Israel" not wholly fallen away from the privileges of the covenant, we are under the most solemn and weighty obligations to them, above all other men, to give them the Gospel, and recall them to its life and power.

But it is not only on their own account, and for their own salvation, that the Papal nations ought to be evangelized. It is not simply as "lost sheep of the house of Israel," and as therefore entitled to the first and most strenuous efforts of the servants of the Great Shepherd to recover them to his forsaken fold, that they are to be sought and saved. The re-conversion of these

apostate nations to Christ and his cross, to his grace and his truth, is especially important in view of its bearings upon the Pagan world. At present the Romish hierarchy, strong in its traditions, its antiquity, its temples, its endowments, its revenues, its compactness, its unity of will and purpose—strong in its settled policy of control and aggrandizement, in its cunningly devised system of fables and falsehoods adapted to captivate and keep in subjection to itself the corrupt propensities of the carnal mind—strong in its worship carefully arranged to satisfy and charm the romantic, the fanciful, and the sensual, whether of coarser tastes or of more refined and cultured sensibilities—strong, too, in the blind and bigoted attachment of aggregated millions who mutually confirm and excite their passionate zeal in its behalf—strong in all these potent resources, the Church of Rome is the grand obstruction to the progress of the Gospel.

It interferes directly with Protestant missions to the unbelieving nations, by carrying on a rivaling propagandism among them, and thereby confounding and distracting the narrow and prejudiced minds of the heathens. They know not whether to give credence to the Papist or to the Protestant teacher, if to either; while yet the superstitious and sensuous worship of the Papist has naturally some attractions for the depraved hearts of the credulous and sensual Pagans.

Nor is this the worst of it. The corruptions held and practised by the Romanists put many an argument into the mouth of the unbeliever. If there is anything to be respected in the personal character of the modern Jew, it is that intense hereditary scorn and abhorrence of idolatry which, ever since the return from the Babylonian captivity, his people have cherished. The religious veneration for saints, images, pictures, and relics, and especially the worship of the "Mother of God conceived immaculate," which swallows up everything else in the Romish devotion, excites the most profound contempt and disgust among the "children of the captivity." Nowhere are these abominations spoken of with more of detestation than among the long-oppressed and poverty-stricken Jews dwelling in Rome itself. It is almost impossible that an Austrian or a Polish Jew, taking his idea of Christianity from the stupid and abominable image-worship he

sees around him, should not be bitterly prejudiced against the approaches of our religion in any and every form.

In the same way the haughty disciple of the Koran, who boasts himself of a purely spiritual worship confined to Allah alone, and hating image-worship with a perfect hatred, obtains his conception of Christianity from the thoroughly corrupt and idolatrous Latin Church and the equally perverted churches of the East. Looking at this debased worship, in connection with the vices of its priests and professors, it is not strange that he should speak scornfully of all who call themselves Christians, as "infidel dogs." Humanly speaking, what hope is there of his conversion to Christ, till the tremendous stumbling-stone, or rather avalanche, of Popery be rolled out of his path toward the pure and saving faith of the Gospel.

Nay, the veriest heathen, especially they of such wealthy and ancient systems of idolatry as prevail in China and India, are armed against the truth by weapons loaned for their use by Popery. They see nothing in the worship of ancestors and of images more irrational, or more opposed to the light of natural reason and conscience, than they see exemplified in the temples of Romanism. They even fancy, and not without good grounds, that many of the priestly vestments and ceremonies of Rome are borrowed from their more ancient and consistent forms of worship. And so the heathen will continue to harden themselves against the Gospel, till Popery ceases to deceive them as to the true character of the religion of Jesus Christ.

On the other hand, if ever the day shall come, when the Papal nations will cast off the antiquated innovations by which, during successive ages, Rome has perverted, covered up, and neutralized the Gospel, it must be the grand preliminary to the conversion of the world. Then Christendom, its pristine purity and vigor being restored, will rise up in mass to precipitate itself irresistibly upon the strongholds of Mohammedism and heathenism, and sweep them, as by a flood, from off the face of the earth.

Having thus shown the Popedom to be the most important, and the most pressing in its needs, among all the fields which call for the missionary activity of Protestant Christendom, we go on to speak of it as being also the most *accessible*. Not that all parts

of it are fully or equally open to our endeavors. Among many of the nations both of Europe and America, the old intolerant and persecuting laws are still in force, to prevent the entrance of the truth. Yet even among these, the laws for repressing the rights of conscience and the soul's liberty are not executed with the sanguinary fierceness of a darker age; while in many other nations, peopled by far more millions than we can reach by any amount of means as yet at our disposal, we have the law on our side in attempting to diffuse the word of God and its holy teachings. In Ireland, in Belgium, in France, and elsewhere, full *legal* protection is accorded to missionaries and their converts; although there may be local outbreaks of popular fanaticism, or perversions of their power by local magistrates, alike excited by angry priests, and alike condemned by the established laws of their countries. Here we find some fifty millions of nominal Christians, scarcely any of whom have any better knowledge of the way of salvation than the veriest heathens possess, who are perfectly open to the approach of affectionate and judicious labors for their good, so far as their laws and governments are concerned.

This field of missionary enterprise is not only remarkably accessible, but it is full of *promise*, and continually becoming more and more promising. Not only are the laws in our favor, but the degree of intelligence and civilization prevailing among the people, makes them more hopeful objects of Christian instruction. The masses may be ignorant and bigoted, and full of strange prejudices and deadly errors, but they are not more so than the sottish idolators of heathendom, and are much better prepared by education and mental culture to be affected by the light of reason and the Gospel. The Bible is in their language, with many auxiliary books of evangelical instruction; and the great body of them can read, and so have the key of knowledge in their hands, and are somewhat accustomed to exercise their mental powers. And besides this, multitudes of them are agitated by deep discontents under the tyranny of their ghostly superiors. Their necks, galled by the double yoke of kingcraft and priestcraft, are getting sore and stiff; and soon the intolerable burden of the combined selfishness and despotism of autocratic and hierarchal rule will be thrown off in an agony of desperation. "The nations are

angry ;" and nothing can soothe them into order and rest, but the diffusion among them of the light and liberty of the Gospel, unperverted and uncorrupt. In the midst of them the way is prepared for the labors of all our evangelists and colporteurs, as fast as it is understood that these are liberators of the mind, and deliverers of the people from the bondage of priestly domination and delusion.

Moreover, this vast field is not only highly accessible and inviting, but it is already yielding rich and ample *fruits* for the brief season and extent to which it has been under cultivation. No missions of modern times have been more blest of God, or have awakened deeper and holier feelings, than the missions to the Armenian, Syrian, and other corrupted churches of the ancient East. And missions to the Latin Church are precisely the same as these in principle, and in all essential circumstances. The Roman Church, like the different Oriental Churches, was, in its origin, a pure and apostolical Church ; but, like them, it has become thoroughly corrupt and apostatical. If there be any need of re-evangelizing them, there is even greater need of re-converting her. And desolate as the dreary wilderness of Popery may appear, it has already, in many scattered spots where faithful husbandmen have within these few years been sowing and watering the seed of the Gospel, begun to be verdant and productive. Brief as the period of culture has been, and scanty as have been the means applied, already we can count up churches by the score, and are even beginning to count them by the hundred, in Europe and America, composed of converted Romanists and their children. Most of these are nascent churches, yet in their infancy, and struggling for existence against the most adverse influences. But these struggles are hopeful signs of vigorous life. Many of these churches, however, are strong in numbers and in zeal, and are pushing out in all directions, extending their activity into new stations all around them. It may be truly said, that no missionary ground, in modern times, can show more or better fruit, in proportion to the time and strength devoted to it by the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, and kindred associations. This will be made manifest by the facts to be exhibited in a subsequent part of this Report.

The rich results already attained by the Divine favor are only "premonitory symptoms" of what may be reasonably expected, when all Protestant Christendom, abundantly revived in zeal and energy by general effusions of the Spirit of God, shall "have a mind to work," and shall bring its full strength to bear upon the springs of action. It needs only the opening of the windows of heaven, such as prophets and apostles have foretold, to cause this immense desert to bud and blossom as the garden of the Lord.

LEGISLATION.

The sacred rights of conscience are effectually guarded by the frame and spirit of our public institutions. Far be from us to ask for any special legislation in disfavor of Romanism. The law, and the administration of it, should deal as impartially with this system of religion as with any other. The "secular arm" is never to be invoked to make its power felt in the sphere of religion, except to protect the equal rights of all from aggression or violence.

There are, however, some peculiarities in Popery, which make it necessary that other forms of belief should enjoy legal protection against the inequitable and wrongful working of those peculiarities. Yet all legislation having this end in view ought to be, and may be, so framed that it shall be as fair and impartial for the Romanist as for the Protestant. There should be the same law for all, to restrain and redress such abuses wherever found.

We specify three points, on which it is of the highest importance that the statute law of the land should guard the rights of the citizen, no matter what his religious belief may be. These points are, the public-school system, the tenure of ecclesiastical property, and the due inspection of convents.

THE PUBLIC-SCHOOL SYSTEM.—It would be superfluous for us to eulogize this system, so congruous to our mode of civil government, which rests for its being and its well-being upon the intelligence of the people, and is therefore bound in self-preservation to see that the people shall be an intelligent people through the general education of the children in the commonwealth. The Romish clergy, however, in this country, as everywhere else, is utterly opposed to popular education. This opposition relaxes,

and that very unwillingly, only when the process of popular education shall be under their control as to its extent and direction. As they cannot acquire this control, they have made desperate efforts to break up the whole system. First, by their clamors, they try to get the Bible excluded from the schools. If they succeed in coaxing or frightening the school-administrators into shutting the Bible out of a school, the latter soon find that they have gained nothing by this unholy compliance; for the priests immediately set up a second cry,—“Behold, a godless school! an infidel school! There is no religion there!” Thus they “take advantage of their own wrong,” to prejudice the noble work of popular education. The priests, having withdrawn the children under their influence from those “atheistical schools” into seminaries of their own, next make the most sturdy and clamorous demands that a portion of the public-school money raised by general taxation shall be paid over to them. They do not ask that they may receive the proportion of money paid by their people toward the tax, (which would be pitifully small,) but that they may receive in proportion to the number of children, “the poor man’s blessing,” which they can muster. If they can succeed in this insolent demand, the priests secure two important objects. First, they draw a large tax out of Protestant purses for the support of Popish seminaries; and secondly, they effect a union of Church and State, on which their hearts are fully set, by getting the money of the State to pay their sectarian teachers, who are mostly all ecclesiastics, for imparting religious instruction. Furthermore, it is expected that if the Papists succeed in this demand, then all the other religious bodies and denominations will demand the same thing for themselves. Thus the funds provided for schools common to all, being dissipated among the different sects, the common-school system itself must perish. So the priests would be delivered from a formidable foe; for they dread the prospect of a people educated to know too much for them, and so liberalized by culture and intelligence as to rise superior to clerical sway and domination.

Consequently, it is of the utmost importance that the several States should so legislate upon this subject as to keep the common-school system intact and impartial towards all sects, and the

funds provided for it expended for the benefit of all who will avail themselves thereof, without preference of any sect, whether Protestant or Romanist, over others.

THE TENURE OF CHURCH PROPERTY.—It is a singular fact, that in the United States the Romish Church enjoys privileges on this point which are denied to it in most countries where hers is the religion established by law and alone recognized and tolerated. In this country there is no limit to her accumulation of real estate. In the Papal countries of Europe she cannot augment her possessions, except under very rigid limitations. Being a self-perpetuating corporation, and already wealthy in the middle ages, and ever greedy for the acquisition of landed endowments, she became, in the lapse of time, mistress of a large proportion of the soil: in some countries not less than a third, and that the most desirable portion. Her possession of this vast estate not only impoverished the nations, but the preponderating power and influence it gave her put the authority and independence of the secular governments in peril. The consequence has been, that those governments have been enforced for their own security to set up strong bounds against her further acquisitions. And more than this: those governments, in order to redress the intolerable evils already incurred, have been compelled to adopt laws of *amortization*, or statutes *a mortmain*. That is to say, they have legislated so as to release the broad church-lands from the "dead hands" of those who, in past ages, conveyed them to the church. Those titles have been wrested from her, and assumed by the State to be kept or sold for the public use. This has been done in France by the wholesale; and also very largely in Spain, Sardinia, Austria, Mexico, and other countries still regarded as Papal. The church made obstinate and unavailing resistance. But kings and emperors, though professing to be "Most Catholic" and "faithful sons of the church," were compelled, however reluctantly, to adopt and carry out this policy, or to see their countries impoverished, bankrupt, and utterly disabled from carrying on the machinery of government and the administration of the laws.

As the laws of this country now stand, it may not be more than a hundred years before the people of the United States will find

themselves in this frightful predicament. The Church of Rome is buying up all the land she can in city and country. The more she gets the more she will get; for, as Lord Bacon says, "land breeds land." She sees her chance—a chance denied her in Europe and elsewhere among her own followers; and she is eagerly availing herself of it to become the great landlord over our posterity, to the peril not only of their spiritual interests, but of their civil rights and liberties, and all their sources of prosperity and happiness. It is absolutely required by the supreme law of self-preservation, and by our impassioned love of freedom, that such a calamity be made impossible by wise and timely legislation. Recent statutes have been enacted in New-York, Connecticut, and Ohio, with this end in view; but they seem to be already a "dead letter." We want laws, in all our States, so framed that they may and must be enforced; *laws which shall not bear upon the Romish Church alone*, but which shall judiciously and impartially limit the tenure of church property, and the amount to be so held by churches of all denominations, be they Popish or Protestant.

THE INSPECTION OF CONVENTS.—These institutions are getting to be somewhat numerous among us. There are above an hundred of them. In their very nature they are anti-social, and anti-human, and anti-Christian. They especially militate against the spirit of our Anglo-Saxon laws and the genius of our free institutions, which guard with vigilant jealousy the liberty of all who enjoy the recognized rights of citizenship. Nevertheless, if there are those who are so fanatical, or infatuated, or deceived, as voluntarily to forego their personal rights, and doom themselves to confinement in these ecclesiastical prisons, we suppose that they must be permitted to do so *while they remain of that mind*. But they may change their minds, or find that they were deceived by false representations into thus immuring themselves, or are subjected to cruel and oppressive usage by the conventual superiors; and so they may sigh to resume their *inalienable right* to liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In such case, the law is bound to open their prison-doors for their return to their abandoned duties, to the family, and to society. The law should set them free.

No other prisons are allowed among us but those for the punishment of crime and the custody and remedial treatment of the

insane, and also these dungeons of which the priests hold the keys. Now the State will not surrender her own penitentiaries and asylums even to officers of her own appointment, and leave the latter to act irresponsibly in the premises. The greatest care is taken to protect the inmates from injustice and abuse. And shall the State watch thus jealously over the welfare of her criminals and madmen, and abandon her innocent and too conscious sons and daughters to the tender mercies of proud priests and stern ascetics? Are these only to be allowed to play the tyrant, in all the tricks and caprices of irresponsible power; while the officials of the State are held to a strict accountability? If convents must be, then the least the State can do, is to see that the republic receive no detriment thereby, and that due protection be secured to the inmates, even against the consequences of their ignorance or want of consideration. Let it be enacted, that every convent shall be so built that every inmate may be able to leave it at will. Let it also be provided, that they shall be thoroughly inspected from time to time by competent and reliable magistrates or other public officers.

From these thoughts on the subject comprised in the Society's object, we proceed to details of the year. We begin with the

HOME FIELD.

On the Home Field, and the state of things within it, the ability, and very much of the usefulness of the Society, must necessarily depend. From it the funds required to sustain the missions abroad, and also the operations within its own limits, must be derived. In it, if anywhere, by their cordial co-operation, in maintaining and publishing a pure Gospel, must Protestants give a practical illustration of their ESSENTIAL UNITY, whereby one of Rome's bitterest reproaches may be wiped from them, and one of her strongest arguments against them be demolished. And in it must obtain extensively, (holding a controlling influence over the judgment and hearts of the people,) the Biblical view of the Papal and Oriental apostasies, together with the moral and spiritual condition of the multitudes involved in them, if the Society is to become on a large scale, as it ought, the agent for their en-

lightenment and salvation, and also to have the benefit of the sympathies, prayers, and efforts of the American churches.

In assuming, therefore, their office and its duties, the Board could not avoid the feeling of deep concern in regard to the results of their labors. Through the progress of the year, though animated by many striking incidents of Divine Providence bearing on the welfare of the cause entrusted to their supervision, they could not be unmindful of some prominent facts, nor fail to observe some of the characteristic features of the times, which were anything but favorable to the prosperity of the work to which they were called. But the results are better than their fears had allowed them, in the beginning, to expect. They will compare advantageously with any period of equal length in past time, and in several respects they are considerably *in advance* of them. More funds have been received than ever before, and more laborers have consequently been employed.

Among the causes of their concern the following were prominent:—

1. The political excitement which obtained in the country.

This excitement was general, and prevailed during a great part of the year. While, on every moral and religious enterprise, political strifes, if of wide extent and long continuance, exert a prejudicial influence, for obvious reasons, such agitation as the nation has suffered in the past twelve months must be eminently detrimental to the interests of the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION. Romanists constitute a small part of the nation, and political aspirants and demagogues, through ignorance, or something less amiable, seldom fail to give them a prominence and position in the minds of multitudes not at all favorable to missionary labors for their spiritual good, or for the welfare of their fellows in foreign lands.

2. The continued tendency manifested in some portions of the evangelical branches of the church, to what may be called denominationalism, and consequently to separate action in the work of missions.

Deeply interested as they severally are in matters which respect their own denominations, and painful as it would be to see them embarrassed or insufficiently supported, the Board could not

be insensible to the evils which flow to our common Christianity from non-intercourse, and a withheld co-operation on the part of various branches of the church of Christ in things connected with its welfare, and which alike involve the responsibility of every member. Such is the work of reclaiming the apostate parts of Christendom to a pure Christianity. All are alike interested in it: all are responsible in respect to it: and the combined wisdom and resources of all, in their best forms, are needful in order to prosecute it to much advantage. Whatever, therefore, might tend to divide that force and diminish its power—to bring fewer missionaries into the field and less ability to the treasury, could not fail to awaken anxious concern for the welfare of the cause. And they could not but deprecate the strengthened manifestations of that want of co-operation, fellowship, and unity, which Papists have so long affected to look upon with disgust, and have charged upon Protestants, and employed but too successfully to prejudice the common people against them and the Gospel. Few things have been used, since the Reformation, in Papal communities with more effect, to keep the people from intercourse with Protestants, and from inquiring for and obtaining the true Gospel, than the exhibitions that have been made as to their differences, their separate organizations, and want of fellowship and co-operation in religious matters.

They may add—

3. The continued prevalence in many quarters of the delusive sentiments—1st, That Romanism has undergone radical changes of favorable character within the last three centuries, so that it is not now what it previously was; and 2d, That sufficient provision for the protection of our citizens against its evil tendencies, if it still have any, is found in the genius of our civil government and its free institutions, and especially in the Bible, Tract, Domestic and Foreign Missionary Societies, which were formed long ago and without any special reference to Romanists.

Few things are more delusive, or have led the masses of the American people further astray. Romanism is not changed. In all its essential elements and aims, it is what it was at the beginning, in the palmiest days of Hildebrand, or in the darkest hour of the dark ages. And if, for the sake of more easily obtaining an

introduction into a country and a foothold upon its soil, its priesthood or others may encourage the popular error in this regard, it nevertheless remains in policy, dogma, and purposes the same.

In this feature of invariable sameness, everywhere and always, Rome's constituted authorities most exultingly boast. If, therefore, she were cruel and oppressive, unscriptural and anti-Christian, in the days when her influence in Europe was supreme, she is so still; and as she utterly repudiates and scorns the idea of change, so she refuses to accept the well-meant compliment of ill-instructed Protestants who attribute it to her, when they seek to induce their fellow-citizens to regard her with forbearance, if not with positive favor. And yet, in the success of this delusion, which has introduced her favorably into the country, and continues to multiply her chances to strengthen her positions among us, she felicitates herself, and looks with but ill-concealed contempt on their weakness or simplicity, who have been thus deluded; and she waits but the happy concurrence of circumstances to render it prudent for her to throw off the mask and to demonstrate her possession of all of her original characteristics, without abatement or change.

The genius of our civil government and its free institutions, it is true, have a liberalizing effect; and they doubtless do much to check the progress and smooth flow of the Papal streams that have been let into our land. But they meddle not with religion, except to secure its undisturbed practice and enjoyment to all of our citizens. It is not their design, therefore, to annihilate any system of religion as such; and their tendency to destroy Romanism in opposition to the daily inculcations of a multitudinous and vigilant hierarchy, aided by numerous and jealous partizans of both sexes exclusively devoted to its support and propagation, has been greatly overrated, as the present state of Romish interests and influences in the land most conclusively shows.

And the Board would recognize, and acknowledge with gratitude to God, all the influences which Bible and Tract, Domestic and Foreign Missionary Societies exert in meliorating the condition of the ignorant and vicious, the wandering and those "ready to perish," and in extending the area of the Gospel's domain.

They are not at liberty, however, to ascribe to them power which they have not exerted, nor to rely upon their workings for the removal of evils which they have hitherto failed to effect, and which, on the contrary, have steadily gained (from the day of their first appearance) consistency and strength even in the places where these agencies have been most liberally, faithfully, and constantly employed.

What Romanism might have been or done in this land if those agencies had not been employed, and what conversions and additions to her communion from Protestant ranks Rome at this date could have boasted, must, of course, remain a matter of speculation, for there are no means by which to determine them. But whatever speculations may be indulged in regard to these uncertain things, the indisputable fact stands out to view on the face of our entire national territory, and is confirmed by reliable evidence, that Romanism has made its way into the most desirable parts of the country, and within the last twenty years has multiplied her ministers and members, her chapels and churches, convents and nunneries, schools and higher seminaries, newspapers and various means of propagation, in a comparative ratio which exceeds that of any evangelical denomination in the same period of time; and a larger number of persons of education, of standing, and influence, such as editors, lawyers, ministers, bishops, have gone into Romanism from Protestant ranks, than have come from the former to the latter.

And in her ecclesiastical and corporate capacity she has already accumulated an amount of property, that far exceeds the value of that which is held by any other class of ecclesiastics in the nation.

In view of these reliable and startling facts, the Board cannot accord to the civil government and its free institutions, nor to the excellent Societies named, the power and bearing which in this regard many have relied on them to exert. They have not met this wily and long-experienced enemy of humanity and godliness face to face, and grappled with his strength; unmasked and exposed his hideous deformity, his malign and destructive purposes; nor by any direct assault, with well-selected weapons from the heavenly armory, sought to drive him from the deadly work

on which his heart is bent among our population. Their resistance, if any at all, has been but incidental. Their main attempts have not been aimed at this extremely dangerous and most threatening foe; and hence the progress he has made, the triumphs he has gained. And until these delusive sentiments, whose stupefying influence on Protestants have allowed him to take his present position, are given up, and pastors and people shall come to regard Romanism and to preach and speak of it in its anti-Christian character, and earnestly seek to deliver mankind from its destroying power, its still further triumph must be anticipated. The Board have found it impracticable, therefore, to contemplate the prevalence of these delusive notions about Romanism, and the means that would correct and overcome it, without the deepest concern for the effect on the cause committed to their care.

But notwithstanding these causes of anxiety, the Board have enjoyed the support of various countervailing considerations, while engaged in the discharge of the duties connected with their office. They will briefly advert to a few of them. And prominent in the list are the following:

1. A strong conviction that the cause which the Society aims to promote is of God, and that it must ultimately prevail.

A very large portion of the nominal church of Christ is overwhelmed with the errors and corruptions of a wicked yet long-predicted apostasy. A prominent aim of the Society is the recovery of the church from this oppressed condition, and through it, of the honor of her glorified Head from the reproach to which it is now subjected among Mahommedans, and Pagans, and Jews.

From the evils of this apostasy the true church must come; for she cannot be partaker of the doom to which Babylon her oppressor is devoted. The element of life is in her. The promise of the Savior makes its continuance to her sure. In due time, therefore, the truth will prevail. The forms by which she has been disfigured, the bonds by which she has been bound, will then be cast off, and she will be emancipated, and stand forth in all her divinely communicated grace and beauty.

The prophecies and promises of the Scriptures in regard to the ultimate state of the church, and to the destiny of her oppressors, and particularly those which may have arisen within her enelo-

asures, have, therefore, an interesting and encouraging bearing upon this cause, and the Board cannot doubt that it is of God; nor that it will finally prevail, whatever may be the estimate now made of it by any class of men, or the treatment it may receive from the hands of its foes.

2. The extension of the sentiment that Romanism is not Christianity—and that Romanists ought to enjoy more largely the sympathies, and prayers, and missionary efforts of the church of Christ, than they have enjoyed heretofore.

There is more thought bestowed now upon the subject of Popery by the people of the nation than at any former time, and the discussion of its nature and claims have greatly cleared the mists that overhung it in many minds. Many who had but imperfect views of it, and had given it but little attention, and consequently regarded it favorably, have come to regard it as involving fatal error, and its adherents as being most appropriate subjects for missionary sympathy and efforts.

And besides those who co-operate with the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, several denominations who have missionary Boards, and perform a great deal of service among Protestants and Pagans, have recently added Romanists to the number who should share in their efforts at evangelization. While, then, a disregard of scriptural teachings about it, and a perverted judgment, or some other cause, may lead many to indifference, and to take no part in measures for the enlightenment and religious improvement of the millions of benighted Papists in the world—or may suffer a large number from Protestant ranks to rush into the communion of the “Man of Sin,” and to vindicate the errors and observe the forms there prevalent; it is most gratifying to know that the scriptural sentiment in regard to the Papacy is nevertheless gaining ground in the land, and that the prospect is annually growing brighter, in regard to the approach of the time when the true church of Christ will have obtained just views on this momentous subject, and address herself with all her might to the discharge of her duty in regard to it.

They will add only:—

3. The Divine favor which has signally attended the cause and prospered most of the efforts that have been put forth.

The labors that have been attempted have been various. Some have been complicated and difficult, others more simple and easy of execution. And while the fruits of some follow early upon the labor bestowed, the fruits of others discover themselves at a much later season. Sufficient, however, has been witnessed within the year, to assure the Board that the Divine favor is bestowed upon the cause, and that the Society is a cherished instrumentality in the hands of our glorious Redeemer for the accomplishment of most precious designs to our world. Many of these evidences of favor will appear in the details of the operations which must be submitted.

We may now speak of

THE TREASURY.

The receipts of the treasury during the year are considerably in *advance* of the amount received the year immediately preceding—a full account of which, and also of the disbursements, may be seen in the usual place at the end of this Report.

For the supply of the treasury, the amount of agency employed was less than before. Two districts of large extent, and from which considerable amounts had formerly been obtained, have been vacant since the early part of last fall: and another, usually more productive than either of the afore-mentioned, has had but little done in it in behalf of the Society for a much larger portion of the year. It will be the object of the Board to make suitable provision for the supply of these districts without unnecessary delay.

A larger share of the receipts than is usual, was derived last year from legacies left by friends of the cause, to be used for its advancement after their decease. The aid thus received has proved highly advantageous, and enabled the Board not only to sustain but to extend their operations, as otherwise they could not have done.

And thus, “though dead,” those donors “yet speak,” and share in the work of propagating among the living a pure Christianity. And the Board respectfully commend their example for imitation to such as of God are entrusted with the ownership and disposal of large amounts of worldly property. By such

benefactions much good may be done, while no real interest of family or friends may be neglected or harmed by it.

PUBLICATIONS.

In the Publication Department the Board have made no material changes since the last Annual Report was published. The experiences of the year, however, have added strength to their former convictions, that notwithstanding the amount of reading matter, and the excellent quality of a great deal of it, that is furnished by the various publication establishments now in operation, the interests of the cause entrusted to their care are vitally connected with the maintenance of the position which they have assumed in the use of the press. The state of the country, the tastes of the age, and the tendencies of the times, render it imperative that there be furnished in an acceptable form, either of books, tracts, or periodicals, such reading matter as may expose the real nature and tendency of Romanism, and instruct the people in regard to both their duty and privilege touching it. The discontinuance or curtailment of the use now made of the press, would, in their judgment, materially diminish the usefulness of the Society, and one of the principal sources of its prosperity. In view of all the interests requiring their attention, the Board have therefore aimed in this department, as in the others, to pursue a judicious course. They have aimed to avoid incurring indebtedness, on the one hand, by the multiplication of works to be placed for a long time on the shelves of the depository as dead capital, or allowing, on the other, the cause materially to suffer for the want of suitable publications, which it was in their power to put in circulation.

As heretofore, they have continued to publish monthly,

THE MAGAZINE,

An octavo pamphlet of 32 pages, devoted to the discussion of subjects, connected with the objects of the Society. It is distributed to Life-Members, and Life-Directors. It has found its way into many colleges and theological seminaries, and into the reading-rooms of many Young Men's Christian Associations. It is read by more than 4,000 ministers of the Gospel of different religious denominations, and is circulated, in addition, among

nearly three times that number of families in the United States. It is also sent, to a limited extent, to friends of the cause in foreign parts.

It is gratifying to the Board to be able to report a growing interest in this work, and appreciation of its importance and usefulness to the cause of evangelical religion and a pure Christianity.

In the course of the year they have also re-printed editions of the following

BOOKS.

Secret Instructions of the Jesuits; Trial of the Pope; Middleton's Letter, with the Author's Defense against a Roman Catholic Opponent; Our Country, its Dangers and Duties; The Conversion and Sufferings of Sarah Doherty; The Decrees and Canons of the Council of Trent; Ciocei, a Narrative of Rome in the Nineteenth Century; Romanism Compared with the Bible; Romanism Incompatible with Republican Principles; Book of Tracts on Romanism, and a Catechism, in the Spanish language, designed for the benefit of Spanish Papal children.

TRACTS,

The Board have reprinted, in English and German, editions of the Nos. 1, 2, 5, of the recently commenced "series" of Tracts; and in German and English No. 13 of the former "series," and also Nos. 11 and 12 of the same "series" in English; which have been distributed, as circumstances seemed to demand, in various parts of the country, among Romanists and Protestants, according to their nature and design.

They have also published an "occasional" tract of 12 pages designed for circulation among the American churches, entitled, "Summons to American Protestants."

In regard to this tract, whose object is to call attention to and excite a deeper interest in the great work of reforming the apostate portions of Christendom, and of re-establishing a pure Christianity where a corrupted form of it obtains, much pains was taken to give it a wide circulation. Copies of it were addressed by mail to several thousand clergymen, pastors of different evangelical denominations in the United States, and many thousand copies additional were otherwise distributed among our citizens in all the various walks of life.

Of the Seventh Annual Report, a pamphlet of 115 octavo

pages, upwards of six thousand copies were printed, and distributed to the pastors of churches, instructors in colleges and seminaries, to librarians, managers of lyceums or reading-rooms, officers of Young Men's Christian Associations, and other persons of standing and influence in the country. Some copies were also sent to friends of the cause in foreign lands.

The events of the year have tended to increase, in their apprehension, the importance of the proper instruction of the youth of the nation, in regard to the anti-Christian nature and dangerous and destructive influence of Romanism as a religion, and the Board have therefore given considerable attention to the preparation of a good supply of sets of the

SUNDAY-SCHOOL LIBRARY,

Consisting of 22 volumes, of which notice was taken in the two preceding Annual Reports. This library can now be furnished to any extent which may be required. And although they have employed no agency devoted exclusively to its sale or distribution, (though the importance of its use in the Sunday-schools might warrant such agency hereafter,) yet in response to the communications made in regard to it through the Magazine, correspondence, or services in the pulpit, more than a hundred schools in different parts of the country during the year have been supplied with it.

In the prosecution of their work, even among Protestants, much prejudice is to be overcome, much ignorance to be instructed, and many new currents of thought, feeling, and action are to be started and kept in motion. No instrumentality, in many places and conditions of society, for the accomplishment of these ends is so appropriate and effective as the printed sheet or a bound volume. And all this is no less true with the Papists than with some Protestants. Indeed, the Papist is often less open to personal approaches of the living teacher than the Protestant, and evangelical instruction can be conveyed to him only through tracts or books.

The Board have, therefore, not only to use the press, but to use it GRATUITOUSLY to a large extent. The amount of gratuitous distribution of publications during the year is upwards of

(\$5,000) five thousand dollars. But, in the errors it has corrected, in the information which it has imparted, in the zeal it has kindled in behalf of the truth, and in the guards it has set against the insidious and injurious movements of the Papacy, there is ample remuneration for the outlay.

We may now proceed to speak of

MISSIONS.

Missions among the Romanists in this country have been sustained in various places, among the Irish, German, French, and Spanish portions of the population.

The principles stated in several of the preceding Annual Reports, as governing the action of the Board in this department of labor, have been observed by them as in former years. And with the gradual approximation of the Romish system to its completed organization and full development in this land, there has been an accumulation to the intensity of Papal opposition to every effort for the evangelization of the people who had been brought under its power.

The Papal press, in German, French, and English—the Papal priesthood, now amounting to about two thousand individuals, stationed in almost every locality where Romanists live in considerable numbers—the various orders of subordinate laborers, male and female, such as Dominicans, Franciscans, Benedictines, Redemptorists, Brothers of the Christian School, Brothers of the Holy Family, Sisters of Mercy, Daughters of Charity, Ladies of the Sacred Heart, and Sisters of Notre Dame, which in very great numbers have been imported to us, and, distributed liberally throughout the land, have, within the year as at no former time, made assaults upon the common Protestant sentiment and feeling of Americans—and also have put forth unwonted efforts to cut off all access to Romanists on the part of evangelical teachers.

And it is with sincere regret that the Board have occasion and feel themselves called upon to say, in this connection, that many nominal Protestants have lent their agency to it, and much facilitated and even hastened the advancement of this peculiar system to its present position among us; while they have done

nothing by pecuniary contributions, or in any way, to enlighten and to bless, through evangelical truth, the millions of Romanists who are here and deluded by their hierarchy, misled in the matter of salvation, and are going down the "broad road" to destruction—and who by their influence (directed by their spiritual leaders) often embarrass the natural action of our institutions, and thus endanger the prosperity and happiness of our country.

The Board do not make this statement by way of reproach, much less of complaint, against any who may not have co-operated with them through the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, but because the facts involved are crowded upon their observation in many quarters—and also that, if possible, they may induce those implicated, (should such chance to read this paragraph) to change their course. They would respectfully and earnestly request them to consider whether, by the course pursued, they are not laboring to bring upon themselves, their children, and our whole land, one of the direst calamities that ever fell upon any people—one of the heaviest scourges that ever afflicted the true church of our Lord Jesus Christ—and which, unless arrested and prevented attaining to its aimed-at expansion and power here, will "crush out" and destroy all that is lovely either in State or Church, as it has done in Spain, Italy, Mexico, and some other lands.

With this view, and animated by the hope that the descendants of the Protestants of Europe who fled to this country to escape the evils of ecclesiastical not less than political oppression, and who for any cause have not identified themselves with the supporters of Protestantism here, will change their course and give them their aid, the Board thus speak. For to a pure Christianity, and the principles and duties it discloses and enjoins, is attributable, under God, the unparalleled prosperity of our nation; and for its maintenance in its simplicity and uncorrupted form every citizen is in some degree responsible. If every one shall prove faithful to its demands, the inheritance secured to us by our forefathers, at an immense sacrifice of toil, and blood, and treasure, no outside power brought upon us, and no hostile bands or schemes covertly brought in among us, can take from us or stop the onward flow of our happiness. We shall continue to

have and to enjoy all that has hitherto made our country the desire of the millions in other lands.

But notwithstanding the peculiar delicacy of the work, and the difficulties that cluster around it, the Board are enabled to report most gratifying results. In many respects, advances upon past usefulness, both in the itinerant and stationed missions have been received.

Much more than usual attention has been given to the children of Romanists. A greater number than formerly have been brought under the influence of the missionaries, and led into schools, where they have been taught the rudiments at least of an English education.

More than ordinary success has also attended the efforts of the missionaries, at a number of the stations, in connection with Sabbath-school instruction under their own care. These schools in their respective localities have grown upon the affections of the Protestants, and come to share generously in their patronage and in their personal support. They have indeed shared largely in Papal persecutions and detraction, but have nevertheless maintained their way, and so gained the confidence of the parents of the children that the power of the priesthood has not been able to disband or destroy them.

The neglected condition of multitudes of the Papal children around them, and who were growing up in idleness and vice, has opened a wide door of usefulness to the missionaries at several stations; and they have within the year past established, through the aid of kind friends on the ground, "Industrial Schools" for their benefit. These schools are held on week days, and are chiefly for the instruction of little girls, who in them are taught the habits of industry, [to make articles of clothing for themselves and others,] and also the principles of morality and the Gospel religion.

In a few instances schools have been opened for the benefit of little boys of Papal parents who do not attend any of the public schools, and have none to care for their instruction.

These efforts have been productive of great good. They have not benefited the children merely, but they have benefited the parents likewise. They have tended to soften and dissipate that

prejudice with which the Romanists had been taught to look upon all Protestants, and to dispose them to listen to Protestant instruction, and to receive and read the Holy Scriptures; and consequently many hundreds of adults, who were born in Papal lands and reared under Papal instruction, and until lately believed in the delusions of Popery, are now seeking and obtaining the truth that saves, in these hallowed institutions, at the lips of the missionaries of the Board.

The following extracts from the reports of some of the missionaries will exhibit the nature of the service performed, the difficulties encountered, the success that attend it, and the position of the Society in this department. We therefore here submit them:

We will begin with the

IRISH MISSIONS.

The Rev. J. C. Sinclair is stationed in Alleghany City, Pa., which is separated from Pittsburgh only by the Alleghany river. His labors are extended to both cities. The extracts given below will show that he is not laboring alone nor in vain. He has succeeded in making an impression upon the immense Irish Papal population congregated there. He has, besides his visitation service in families, no less than *three* schools—week-day, Sunday, and industrial, in operation, (comprising nearly three hundred children,) and, besides his two daughters, more than *thirty* persons engaged more or less of their time with him in carrying on the work. The influences thus exerted at that station against the seductive and ruinous teachings and arts of Romanism, and in favor of a pure Christianity, are most salutary and hopeful, and they extend over many hundreds of minds. In his annual report he says:

“Allow me to speak first of the work of family visitation. This is a daily service, and is carried on both in Pittsburgh and Alleghany cities. The method which I generally adopt in these visits, and find best adapted to bring out their sentiments concerning the cardinal doctrines of the Christian religion, sin, its effects, and the means of deliverance from its evil consequences, is generally of the nature of question and answer. I have always found this method to be the best when prudently conducted. It gives the people an opportunity to explain their religious views themselves, and of their system without causing offense.

“The next subject to which I shall advert is the missionary schools. These

form the ground-work, if I may so say, of our mission. While we find those of maturer years, in general, unapproachable and with their hearts steeled against the Gospel, we can instill some of the truths of the Bible into the hearts of the children whom we are permitted to gather into our schools. The 'Sinclair Mission-School' has been, after many removals from place to place, located in Pennsylvania Avenue, in one of the most destitute and wicked localities of Pittsburgh. The opposition which we had to contend with at the first opening of the school on the avenue was most annoying.

"But we have obtained the victory over these annoyances and insults. It is now as quiet and orderly a school as can be expected from the class of children in attendance. The names on our roll are 130—average attendance from 80 to 90. There are 70 in attendance on the other school. This latter school is in session in the morning, and the former in the afternoon. My daughters, as well as myself, attend both schools.

"The 'Industrial School' for poor girls went into operation four months ago. The good accomplished by this institution in that short period is very encouraging. As this was a new movement in connection with the mission, I had my doubts and fears as to its future success. But these were dissipated so soon as the work was commenced. Many of our benevolent ladies came forward cheerfully to lend both their counsel and aid to the good cause. At the opening of the school our treasury had but \$3, which were sent in by one of our benevolent friends; also a few remnants of cloth and a few needles and thimbles. To have the mission-house more comfortable, a stove had to be purchased, we, trusting to the providence of God and the religious community for the means to pay for it. We were not left to trust in vain, for our merchant friends soon supplied us with the articles needed.

"We commenced with 25 girls. Many of them came with faces and hands unwashed and hair uncombed, and were uncommonly rude; but now they come clean and neat in their apparel, and in their deportment very much improved. The numbers on the roll have increased to 96, and the average attendance is upwards of 50.

"The encouraging features of the mission schools may now be noticed:

"1st. There is an energetic and efficient band of upwards of thirty pious ladies and gentlemen who take the deepest interest in the moral and spiritual instruction of the children connected with the mission schools.

"2d. The very necessary and valuable assistance rendered by the following religious Societies, by donations of books, to enable me to carry out the object contemplated by the Board should be recorded. The Pittsburgh Ladies' and Young Men's Bible Societies, and the Alleghany Ladies' and Young Men's Bible Societies furnished me with Bibles and Testaments for the school and for distribution. The Pittsburgh Presbyterian Committee of Colportage has donated \$4 70 worth of books for a library. The American Sunday-School Union has donated 100 volumes for a library, also primers, spelling-books, and two sets of the Penny Magazine. The Massachusetts Sunday-School Society sent in a small

box of books, and the Third Presbyterian Church (Dr. Riddell's) Sabbath-school has given 100 copies of the Child's Paper for 1857 to the 'Sinclair Missionary School.' The American Sunday-School Union has also given a \$10 library for half price to the other school.

"3d. The ladies of the Second Presbyterian Church (Dr. Howard's) have done much to assist me in clothing the more destitute of the children. Their liberality in this work has exceeded that of last year. They have thus both strengthened my hands and encouraged my heart by their annual contributions. Some other ladies have also sent in some articles.

"4th. Another source of encouragement is the number attending the schools, and the co-operation of different denominations with me.

"We are gathering strength and increasing in numbers, notwithstanding the strong current of opposition that is set against us. The deep interest which the ladies connected with almost all the Protestant churches take in the 'Industrial School' is very cheering. Members of the Episcopal, Baptist, and Presbyterian churches can be seen wending their way to our mission-house, and aiding in its labors.

"Our little school is a beautiful example of Christian union, bearing testimony that union and co-operation are compatible with Protestantism.

"But let me add that another 'Industrial Sewing-School' is organized.

"On Saturday, the 21st instant, we opened another Industrial School in Alleghany City. At its first session the names of 32 scholars were enrolled. Six ladies were in attendance. The school is to be in session on Saturdays, and hence we expect a pretty numerous attendance. We meet in the English Lutheran Church, which was cheerfully given us, and it has this advantage over the Pittsburgh school, because there is no rent to pay for the place in which it is held.

"Such has been my work under the auspices of the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, and aided by the churches here.

"Having spoken of some of the encouragements connected with the mission, I cannot overlook its difficulties. I shall, however, now speak of but one. The one to which I shall allude, is the surveillance of the priests and various other 'orders' of the Popish system. No one who watches the exertions put forth by the Romish hierarchy can be ignorant of the difficulties in the way of approaching a people who are from their childhood taught to look upon all who differ from them as in a state of rebellion against heaven, under the curse of God and the Pope of Rome. Is Pius IX. idle in the affairs of the United States? Who does not know of the murder of the little girl in Cleveland by a Popish monk for attending a Protestant Sabbath-school? Is it thought that Protestant missionaries in the United States shall meet with no opposition, no trials of their faith and patience, and particularly in the so-called diocese of Pittsburgh, where the priesthood nearly to a man are of Irish birth, and where the great majority of the Popish females have their names enrolled in one or another of the *sodalita feminarum* which abound in the diocese? Shall

they meet no resistance from the infatuated devotees and blinded disciples of a system which is towering up in wealth, in strength, and in great numbers amongst us? Verily, they must meet it. When the surveillance of priests, of lay brothers, and of the sisterhoods is taken into account, the greatest wonder to me is, to see a single child of Catholic parentage in any of my schools; and yet they come. Truly this is the Lord's doing.

"The number of official visits made from house to house, in both cities, is 3,925; of tracts 9,826 pages have been distributed in Pittsburgh. I have been permitted to read portions of the Word of God and offer up prayers in the name of Christ our only Mediator in 300 Romish families, and I trust that the Lord has converted at least three persons here. They have abandoned Romanism, and make the Bible which I furnished them the man of their counsel. There are others of whom I indulge hope, but they are like the parents of the blind man spoken of in the Gospel. They fear to expose themselves to persecution from their own countrymen. Ten copies of the Scriptures have been thankfully received in Catholic families.

"Our schools for Sabbath and week-days are prospering. There are nearly 300 children receiving instruction, and 33 ladies and gentlemen engaged in teaching in one department or another.

"Every year's experience convinces me more and more of the great importance of the labors of the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION to our country's welfare. Popery is unfolding its coils, and laying aside the mask.

"Already the assumed civil authority of the Pope is seen in the division of our country into *seven* Roman provinces governed by *seven* Archbishops, and these divided into *forty-one* dioceses supplied with their *forty-one* bishops, 1,872 priests, and by many times that number of clerics and lay sisters, monks or lay brothers, covering the whole area of our States and Territories.

"The Protestant churches of America are loudly called on to gird on their armor, which is not 'carnal but spiritual, and mighty through God for the pulling down this stronghold of Satan.' Rome must fall, for God has so declared in his Word."

2. *New-Albany, Indiana*.—About a year ago the Board commenced their operations in this city. Mr. John M'Bride was appointed to the charge of the mission. It was new ground. The Papal force on it was large. Everything to introduce the work, to get it into notice, and to gather around it good and sustaining influences, was to be done. No one had previously prepared the way. Now the mission has its Sunday and industrial schools, its prayer-meetings, and a place among the most effective agencies for good. The following extract from the missionary's annual report, gives an interesting view of it. Mr. McBride says:

"The following statements will present a condensed view of my field and my labors within it during the past year :

"New-Albany is supposed to contain a population of sixteen thousand souls. It is on the north bank of the Ohio river in Indiana, and extends over a space of two miles in length and one in breadth. The number of Romanists here is supposed to be one thousand. They have two churches, one for the Irish, the other for the German inhabitants. They have two priests. Accessions to their churches are derived chiefly from emigration.

"I have in the year made 2,515 visits : some have been made to the sick and dying, and others to the comparatively healthful, but in the abodes of wretchedness and want.

"I hardly know how to give you a just description of the state of those for whose good I labor ; but I will say that the mother and children are often found in filthy rags, without the usual comforts of life, and without any to care for their spiritual wants. They are extremely ignorant, and if I inquire of them whether they have a Bible, they often answer yes ; then if there is an effort made to find it, it is usually not found. If I inquire, Can you read ? in many cases the answer is, no ! And those who can read do so but rarely. When I ask them, Do you send your boys and girls to school ? they usually reply, No, we cannot send them, for they have no clothing nor shoes but what you see on them.

"In such cases I inquire, Will you send them to my Sabbath-school if we will provide for and instruct them ? By kindness and perseverance we succeed in many cases in getting these neglected children in our schools, and clothed and taught.

"But the condition of the parents is as sad as that of the children, which the above statement but faintly represents. The poor women especially are shut out from intercourse with society, except with that part which is equally destitute of Bible-knowledge with themselves. Their principal knowledge of religion and acts of devotion are comprised in a few Romish dogmas and delusions, and in praying to the Virgin Mary. If they are about to die, they send (in haste) for the priest, that he may impart to them what they call the grace of extreme unction.

"Thus the deluded votaries of the Romish superstition in vast numbers, even in this land, live and die in the midst of Protestant people, and few seem to care for it or even to heed it. Truly it is bad enough.

"But our Sabbath-schools, three in number, are doing very well. The average number in weekly attendance of Romanists is 75, though as we admit others, there are in all over 200. In one of these schools the children have recited 4,000 verses of Scripture.

"An Irish girl, who abandoned Romanism while in the family of the missionary, now in Louisville, Ky., and was converted to Christ in this place, is now a member in the Methodist church. She is a member of our school, and has studied the Bible with earnestness. Indeed she has committed to memory

and recited the first eleven chapters of the Gospel by St. John, and also three chapters of the Acts of the Apostles.

"The expenses for books of our schools have been met principally by our excellent friend, Mr. J. C——, who from the first has taken a lively interest in our cause.

"Besides our Sabbath-schools, we have a 'sewing-school,' for the benefit of the neglected little girls, which is conducted by several benevolent ladies, and is made the means of moral and religious instruction to them of great value, besides inculcating habits of industry. These schools are held in the public school-houses.

"Our weekly prayer-meeting, to which we invite all the friends of our enterprise of all names, is held in the northern part of the city. The average attendance of these meetings has been about 50—mostly young persons. It is always attended by a number of Catholics. We have also had prayer-meetings in other parts of the city.

"From the experience of the past year, therefore, we are satisfied that a gradual and permanent reformation is going on, at least among the younger portion of the Papal population of the city, and that much can be done by the united and prayerful co-operation of Christians. Romanism is the same everywhere, and by the grace of God its subjects can be led to yield to the winning power of Christian charity when exhibited in scripturally authorized efforts for their salvation.

"Let me say, in conclusion, that I cannot but regard most hopefully, our 'sewing' and 'Sunday-schools,' and shall be much disappointed if they do not yield, for the cause for which we specially labor, an abundant harvest in time to come."

3. *Louisville, Ky.*—The Rev. JOHN McDEVITT and his wife have labored at this station during the year. His annual report gives a brief and striking view of the Papal numbers and strength in the city and vicinity. It also shows the urgent need of labors in their behalf, while at the same time it is a powerful plea for devout thankfulness to God, who has vouchsafed such favor to the efforts of his servants in behalf of the followers and subjects of the "Man of Sin."

Mr. McDevitt says:

"Before I proceed to give a report of my labors in Louisville, permit me to represent, as briefly as possible, the powerful and varied machinery Rome has here at work, not only to maintain her interests but to make aggressions, and to draw, as she in some cases does, Protestants into her communion. Our friends should know this, that they may see how necessary it is to have some counter-acting forces here, exclusively devoted to showing up this system in its wicked-

ness, and aiming to protect the Protestant youth from Jesuitical wiles, and, with God's blessing, to lead deluded victims to the Bible, and through it to Christ.

"The number of Romanists in this city has not been exactly ascertained, but the number in the diocese is reckoned by themselves at 45,000: judging from their large church accommodations, their numbers in the city must amount to a fourth of this number. They have seven very large churches and three chapels, in which services are conducted as in the churches. Their schools, free and select, in the city are thirteen. One academy has 100 pupils. There are fourteen religious female communities in the diocese: two of them at least are located here. There are also in this city two orphan asylums, one infirmary, and a 'Society for the Propagation of the Faith,' with various other Societies, some only of whose names I know.

"These Societies, with the orphan asylum, are great aids to Popery. When children are collected into our mission-schools, (who for years were neglected by Rome,) and it is made known to the Papists who are in power in the fraternity, they are hurried into these asylums, lest they may, like Timothy, 'know the holy Scriptures,' which are able to make them 'wise unto salvation,' through faith in Christ Jesus, (and not in a Popish priest,) or lest they may take the advice of Peter, and "Desire the sincere milk of the word, that they may grow thereby."

"In this diocese there are 46 priests and 40 ordained missionaries. How many of these are in this city I cannot tell, but there are many besides monks, lay brothers, and sisters not a few. FORTY missionaries! What a number for so small a population! These men are not idle. Many of them are disciples of Loyola, and Protestants hereabouts may rest assured that this number may one day tell to their disadvantage, unless they apply the corrective in time. With such an immense machinery, what may not Rome accomplish, in these days, when Protestants extend sympathy and support to her!

"At the close of the year 1856, the number of children in all the public schools was 4,159. The Romish schools at the time claimed to have 1,500, and many of them were Protestant! From this it seems that they have under their influence more than a third of the children of this city, and they are determined to keep them if they can.

"What, it may be asked, is doing to correct this state of things?

"All the ordinary means of grace are here, and much is done, and with good effect on Protestants and a few others; but the only thing that has tried to meet it openly and professedly, and face to face, is the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION. And yet how feebly, comparatively, do Americans support this invaluable institution.

"If Rome has a theatrical exhibition in her churches, a so-called 'holy show' in her chapels, or a 'fair' to support some of her institutions, her members, and even *some* Protestants, will give to it liberally, while those Protestants give grudgingly, if at all, to sustain Protestantism, or its institutions or missionaries! This is extremely trying to our faith and other graces. But all

do not so act, and I bless God that there are here many, very many liberal and excellent people who never refuse to aid a cause, when they know it is a good one; and I may say that the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION has here gained that reputation, by its fearless support of evangelical truth, steering clear of 'politics,' seeking only to send a pure gospel to those who have it not, and requiring its missionaries to be 'instant in season and out of season,' that they may counteract the evil influences that threaten to desolate the land.

"But I must give you an account of the mission here, and of some of its results. My own time and labor, and also the most of Mrs. McDevitt's, are given to the work.

"The mission house is now well arranged, and its apartments accommodate very well the several schools and meetings connected with the mission. The first floor, so far as it could be done, has been converted into one large room. In this room we hold our *day-school*, *Sunday-schools*, and *prayer-meetings*. The second floor is occupied almost entirely by the 'INDUSTRIAL,' or 'SEWING-SCHOOL,' with its cutting-room and work-room. The third floor my family occupies in part.

"These schools are all doing well. The average attendance on the day-school is about 85. The average attendance of the little girls on the Saturday morning, 'industrial' or 'sewing-school,' conducted by several excellent ladies, who have helped us much, is 70. In the *two* Sunday-schools, held every Sunday, the average attendance of parents with their children is 150.

"Besides attending to these schools, we maintain meetings for prayer and reading the Bible. The number attending these meetings is encouraging. We have held during the year 117 of them. I have made 3,360 visits to families in the time, for the purpose of religious instruction—have distributed 22 Bibles and 40 Testaments to them, and eight books on Popery, besides 6,000 pages of tracts.

"I am happy to report 60 families now studying the Bible under my care, and 19 families, with their children, who within the year have renounced Popery.

"These statements will give you a little insight into our labors, and what, by the Divine blessing, the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION has set in operation here for the benefit of these deluded yet immortal souls. But they cannot show it all. I have not spoken of our *difficulties*. We have had them. The opposition at times was dreadful, and extremely unchristian, yet I have much cause for thankfulness and to be encouraged. God has been with us, and his favor is seen signally lying along the path of this mission, both in its continued existence, and its abundant and precious fruits. May his blessing descend on it more and more in time to come, till all for whom it labors shall be saved."

4. We take the following from the report of Mr. MICHAEL YOUNG, a layman, who has labored in the city of New-York, in a section densely crowded with Papists. It reveals an encouraging

progress in the right direction, and shows the need there is of a vast increase of laborers, and of deeper interest in regard to Romanists among our Protestant churches in the city. Mr. Young says :

“My field of labor lies on the west side of the city, from 20th-street to 45th-street, and from the 6th-avenue to the North River. The people among whom I labor are principally Irish Romanists.

“There are within the boundaries of my field of labor four Roman Catholic churches, where thousands congregate every Sunday to bow down at the shrine of the gods they worship. As I passed one of those churches, a few Sabbaths since, I beheld a large picture of the Virgin placed before the altar, and hundreds bowing before it.

“This is, however, but one instance of the idolatries practiced by those people for whose spiritual welfare the Society labors. In giving an account of what I have attempted to do, and of some of the results within the year, I will begin with the ‘Industrial School.’ It is due to say that the Rev. Mr. Murray, who labors in another part of the city, and also the Rev. Mr. Welsh, who labors for the Society, and whose duties call him to the city frequently, have rendered me much assistance, particularly the last-named gentleman.

“Last June we opened a Sabbath-school, and collected a number of children who had been growing up in ignorance and under the baneful influence of Romish error. It was soon clear that one day of the week was too little for the instruction of such a class, and that it would require six days’ teaching to eradicate the evil influences under which they labored, and do them any great good.

“We then called on some ladies of our acquaintance, and stated our views and desires for their assistance. They very willingly came to our aid. Those again interested others. The result of which is, that we have now 25 ladies who come in turn to help in the service for five days of the week.

“The school is located in the 7th-avenue, near 28th-street. It commences at 9½ o’clock A. M., and continues until 2½ P. M. It is opened with singing, prayer, and reading the Bible. It is closed in the same manner. The ordinary branches, spelling, reading, writing, geography, and arithmetic, are taught, but instruction in the Scriptures is the principal object. The result has proved most satisfactory. There is an average attendance of 60 scholars, and the number on the list of those who are sometimes there is over 130. We have gained a great advantage by this mode of operation. We can collect and teach by this plan more of that class of children which our Society aims to evangelize than by any other; and, indeed, we can get the instruction of some whom we never could induce to attend a Protestant Sunday-school.

“My attention has also been given every Sabbath-day to a ‘Sabbath-school,’ held in our mission-house in the 7th-avenue. The average number of pupils in this school is 58, though we have had the occasional attendance of more than twice that number. In conducting this school, we have been greatly aided by

kind friends, who have come in from several of the churches in the vicinity, and also one of the students of the Union Theological Seminary. We are indebted also to others for donations in books and various things needed to make it useful.

"The duty of family visitation has not been neglected. I have called upon and addressed more than 12,500 persons in the year on the subject of religion, distributed 22,255 pages of tracts, and 15 Bibles and Testaments.

"I have induced 12 adult Romanists to attend Protestant churches, and 143. Romish children to attend evangelical Sabbath-schools. I have held 22 prayer-meetings, and am happy to report *five cases of hopeful conversion of Romanists to Christ*. I have endeavored to diffuse information about the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, and have obtained eight subscribers for its monthly magazine. Thus you have evidence that our work at this station is advancing. May it flourish more and more! I am sure it is gaining many fast friends here."

GERMAN MISSIONS.

5. The Rev. WM. WINNES is stationed in Cincinnati, Ohio, among the German Romanists. We have much abridged his annual report, yet the parts submitted exhibit great encouragement. He entered that field a stranger, and commenced the work alone. No one had preceded him. A small yet flourishing congregation is now gathered; two Sabbath-schools are in operation, and a church has recently been formed. He says:

"When I look over this great and dark field, my heart is pained to see so many thousands led away from Christ—the Protestants into infidelity, and the Roman Catholics into error and superstition.

"The poor Romanists are under the bondage of their priests, full of darkness, far away from Christ and his Word.

"The Popish church is powerful in this city. There are at least 30,000 German Roman Catholics here, besides the Irish. We have here a large nunnery and seminary; eight large German and three or four Irish and one Dutch Roman Catholic churches. Near by every German Roman church is a large school-house. The priests work very hard to bring all the Romish children in their schools, to keep them from the public and Sabbath-schools and under their influence. If the parents do not send their children, they will not get absolution at confession.

"On Sabbath morning, a quarter after eight o'clock, the priests say mass for the children in the church. When this is done all the children must go into the school-house, and there the priests or the teachers call the name of every child, and if any one is not there, it must give the reason on Monday morning in the school.

"In one of these eight churches they have *four* priests, *four* males, and *four*

females (nuns) as teachers. This school numbers near 1,500 children. The churches on Sabbath are so crowded that many stand in the street. What will not a poor soul do to be saved!

"All their prayers and worshipping go as an atonement for their sins and help to secure salvation. Most of them know nothing about Christ's salvation for sinners. Their eyes are blinded to the gospel of grace. It seems to me the Romish church falls deeper and deeper away from Christ our beloved Savior, to the Virgin Mary and the saints.

"My family visitings and preaching have not been in vain. Some Romanists have been brought to Christ, truly converted, for such persons give good evidence of a change of heart and have united with churches.

"I have directed a good many Catholics into the German Methodist churches. In these churches there are quite a number of Roman Catholics that are converted and are now true Christians.

"My services are regularly attended on the Sabbath. We have as many as 20 hearers in the morning, and in the afternoon about 40. Often I see very deep impression on many hearts. My service on Thursday evening has been regularly kept up the whole year, with an attendance of 12 to 20 hearers. My prayer-meeting on Saturday evening, in my house, is very interesting, and we feel in them the presence of the Lord: the attendance is from 10 to 15. In my Bible-class on Tuesday evening we have had as many as 18 usually, from eight to twelve grown persons.

"Our Sabbath-school in Clinton-street numbers 80 children; the other in Elder-street, 70.

"In my congregation we have raised for rent \$100; for other expenses, \$75. At our monthly concert we have raised for the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION \$14; for foreign missions, \$5; for the Bible Society, \$3; and for our Sabbath-schools, \$60. Also, my people have subscribed upwards of \$250 for erecting a small house of worship. We have purchased a lot in a very good location in the western part of the city. I have begun a subscription-list, and obtained so far for it \$765. We have to pay \$1,000 on the 1st of next July on the lot.

"Three German Methodist churches I have addressed in behalf of the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, and raised \$14 47 for it.

"Of family visits I have made 2,295. Of these 1,575 were to Romanists, 640 to Protestants, and 80 to Irish, English, and French, and 3 to Roman Catholic priests. I have preached Christ in very many coffee-houses, and in the most I could speak freely on temperance.

"I have given in Catholic families 9 Bibles and 80 New Testaments; in Protestant families, 17 Bibles and 20 New Testaments; in English, 3 Bibles and 6 New Testaments; also one French Bible to a French Romish family; also to others 30 other books, with 2,525 Tracts.

"I have read the Bible in more than 400 families. I have now upward of 250 Romish families that read the word of God. I have induced 125 children to

attend different Sabbath-schools; also a good many grown persons to attend Protestant churches.

"One Catholic family burnt the New Testament which I had given them."

6. We take the next extract from the report lately received from the Rev. WILLIAM EPPING. Mr. Epping is stationed at Savannah, Georgia. His engagements have allowed him to devote but one half of his time to the work of the Board at that station among the German Romanists, but in that time much, has been accomplished. He says:

"The last was the first year that the work of evangelization was commenced among the German Romanists of this place, under the auspices of your Society. In this, my first annual report, let me first of all record a fact which is well worthy of being put at its head—viz. None of all those who have embraced the truth and joined my flock (32 in number) have forsaken the sanctuary; all of them have proved faithful—all of them are the most zealous and most valuable church members. Have we not cause enough to rejoice and be thankful for this fact alone?

"But there are other features of the work done within the last twelve months which deserve being noticed here.

"*First*—The Ladies' Christian Union Society is revived, and in active operation. You are aware that the late and much-lamented pastor of the Independent Church, Rev. Dr. W. Preston, was highly interested in the object of your Society; that he it was by whose instrumentality this station was supplied, and that he expressed to your agent, Rev. Mr. Oviatt, his hope and earnest desire for the revival of the Ladies' Society. In the spring of last year he succeeded in having a meeting called, and it appears that this was his last errand and the last business he attended to before he was stricken down; for at the same day and hour when the meeting was to have taken place, the funeral bells were calling together the citizens of this place to attend the solemnities of this beloved Christian champion's obsequies. Thus the operations of the Ladies' Society were further suspended for several months, until I could find time and opportunity (the season being very unfavorable) to call upon the officers and members, and prepare for holding a meeting. This was done in August, and on this occasion I endeavored to bring before the small number of ladies assembled the facts and principles which characterize your Society, and the necessity of co-operating with the same by actively engaging in the work in the field. Since then the interest in this matter has been constantly on the increase, and the sympathy expressed, and the assistance rendered by the members of this Association, has contributed considerably to the advancement of our cause.

"*Second*—A particualar cause for rejoicing is found in the success which has, under the blessing of God, attended the establishment of our Sabbath-school.

After I was enabled, about the middle of November, to gather a dozen children in my private school-room, their number increased on the successive Sundays in the following proportion:—12, 22, 34, 45, 58, 62. Since then, after a careful revision, our list now shows 65 scholars in regular attendance, and 8 teachers—all Germans, with one exception. Among this number (65) there are 35 of Catholic parentage, and 9 Jewish children.

“*Third*—The Lord has also blessed us in the progress of our church-building enterprise, which is put under contract, and proceeding in a promising manner. The lot, as well as all the materials so far put on, are paid for. Our subscription-list shows a very handsome amount; and, with the proceeds of a fair, which has just been concluded, and yielded a little more than \$1,400 clear profit, we hope to see our building finished and *paid for* in good season.

“The visits I have made during the year for religious purposes amount to 1,020 among the Romanists. The Bibles, Testaments, and other works distributed among them are 156. The number of Romanists in attendance on Protestant places of worship now vary from 50 to 100. And the number who give credible evidence of conversion to Christ is 32.

“These statements show that we have ample cause to be thankful for the great mercy and kindness under which we have been permitted to continue our labors, and to be encouraged by the success which has attended them. They show clearly that it has not been the work of man, but the work of God, to whom all praise *must be rendered* now and hereafter.”

7. The Board commenced a mission to the German Romanists of St. Louis, Missouri, in the latter part of the last summer. The Rev. WM. A. SHUBERT, who was appointed to the performance of its duties, has labored at that station. Some of the good results are seen in the following interesting extracts from his report. He says:

“The seventh month of my labors among the German Romanists in St. Louis has just expired. Soon after my arrival here, I engaged in the work for which I was sent. Babylon I found to have an immense power here.

“St. Louis has five German Catholic churches, and one German orphan asylum. Before I was sufficiently acquainted with the place, I established in the neighborhood of said asylum two Sunday-schools. At first I was very much pleased with those schools in every respect, but soon the prince of darkness became active. Several times we were disturbed by a number of young men. One Sunday, as scholars and teachers were collected, about seven of them (of whom the head one is a Catholic) entered the room. I did not show myself afraid, commanded peace, and ordered some of them out of the room. They left the room, but insulted my wife and threatened to kill me, unfastened one of the window-shutters, cast a stone against the door, and made a great noise. But

soon after, two of those men were punished by law; and the others became frightened, and humbly came to beg pardon.

“In the meantime, I had learned that Frenchtown (the part of St. Louis where I am residing now) was a far better field for our work than that on which the said schools were commenced, and I believed it to be my duty to settle at this place. Here I have obtained two large rooms, free of charge, for the use of my Sunday-school, which I have established, and in which rooms, last Sunday, nearly one hundred scholars and six teachers were collected. In these rooms also meets my ‘Industrial School,’ which I lately opened, and which contained to-day about thirty scholars.

“Some weeks since I also opened a Bible-class, which is attended particularly by German Catholics. The service in it is as follows:—It is opened with prayer. I then read a portion of the Holy Scriptures, and question the different attendants in relation to what I have read. If they cannot reply to my questions, I answer them myself. Herewith I also connect a serious but kind admonition, and after all is concluded, prayer is again offered to God for his blessing to attend the exercises, and thus the meeting is closed.

“Next Sunday night I shall commence regular preaching in my Sunday-school room, for which purpose I have invited a number of German Romanists, and I trust these services will be of good consequences. Two weeks since, I commenced regular preaching at the Widow’s Home, where there are a number of Germans, and where I shall preach every other Sabbath morning. There reside a large number of German Romanists in that neighborhood.

“Let me now say more of Frenchtown. This place may properly be called a ‘Young German Rome.’ It is the best field for our work I could have entered; a field on which a reformation is extremely desirable, and which has already made its beginning.

“On the Sabbath the noise on the street has much ceased. Four couples who have been living together not being married, have been joined in marriage by me, and twice have I been called by Catholics to attend a burial and to preach the funeral sermons. I have stood at the Catholic grave-ground, and addressed a large audience.

“The city jail have I visited frequently, and I have had in it several conversations with German Romanists.

“I have made, since I came to St. Louis, over four thousand visits for religious objects, and have received about fifteen hundred calls for the same purpose. Besides have I distributed about three thousand pages of tracts, and a number of Bibles and Testaments.”

The Rev. FRANCIS ZASTERA, formerly a Bohemian Romish priest, whose labors were noticed in the last Annual Report, has continued his service among the German Romanists during the year in the city of New-York. His success is highly encouraging. He says :

"I labor among the German Romanists in the city of New-York. During the year just elapsed, I am happy to have collected a truly interesting congregation from among them.

"My place of worship has been in the 7th-avenue, between 27th and 28th streets, and, what may be considered as most important, it is just in the midst of two Roman Catholic extremes—in the midst of the greatest superstition, and the most demoralizing unbelief; yea, it is at a point of the city where three missionary attempts have been frustrated in years past. But by the spirit of love and sincerity, and under God, I am happy to produce a greater and greater, a better and better influence on their minds. The 'waxen nose,' as the living idols here (the priests) like to name our Bible, yea, this 'waxen nose,' after their definition, is here already penetrating their battled wall.

"My congregation, collected from and among Romanists, numbers more than 35 *hopeful families or 76 members*. Divine service is held now every Sunday forenoon and afternoon, and after that a Sunday-school is held, increasing still more, under the direction of our zealous assistant, Mr. T——.

"In every sermon I try to impress upon my audience's minds the simple truths of the Gospel, and a sense of their own sinfulness, and the necessity of repentance for sin, and faith in Jesus Christ as the only terms of salvation. Practical experience has convinced, and the acknowledgment with which it is attended by the Romanists has led me to believe firmly, that this is the most effective method of convincing them of the superstitions and errors of Popery, and of persuading them to renounce them. In course of the year I have preached 59 sermons on texts appropriate to Romanists, and I have every Sunday from 30 to 55 members in attendance.

"Since the last Christmas-time I have been very diligently visiting 26 *new* Roman Catholic families, most of whom can be considered as converts, because *thirteen* of them have earnestly desired me to baptize their children, and which I am happy to report I have done. The most of these 26 families have also visited me at my lodgings, and are inquiring after the pure Gospel truth.

"Moreover, a new field of labor against Popery has this month been opened by God to me *among Bohemians*—my Roman Catholic compatriots—living here in the city of New-York. Already *three numerous Bohemian families* are to be considered as converts to the pure Christianity, which incident I felt excited to report in an extra report. In short, the grace of God assists me more and more.

"I labor to promote the love for and sincerity in receiving and heeding preaching, by frequent visits and especially by religious conversations. A truly religious conversation makes the visited house a God's house, and a truly sincere and genuine conversation makes its bearer—the missionary—an apostle.

"The last two months, February and March, I have spent to a large extent in searching out and learning about the Roman Catholic population in one of the northern wards of New-York, and in which service I have distributed 500 tracts, (3,200 pages,) which is a proof that I have in this time visited at least 500 Roman Catholic families.

"For these people I have much sympathy: I know well their situation, for I was formerly a Roman Catholic priest in Bohemia. But I am so no longer; for undergoing a theological re-examination and a re-ordination by the classis of the Reformed Dutch Church of New-York, I have been admitted into the true 'ministry of reconciliation,' and it is my earnest hope that God may enable me, by my efforts hereafter, to show my countrymen and many others more and more the errors and dangers of Popery, and thus lead them to Christ, the only Savior."

FRENCH MISSIONS.

9. The following extract is from the report of the Rev. P. J. Hof, who labors among the French Romanists in the city of Detroit, Michigan. As Mr. Hof speaks the German language, he has given a good deal of attention, as opportunity has offered, to the German Romanists, who are numerous in the city, as well as to the French. He has succeeded within the year in getting up a house of worship, and thus has laid the foundation for advantageous labor in future time. The prospects of usefulness are encouraging, though the forces opposed to the Protestant and evangelical truth there are very strong. Mr. Hof says:

"You are aware that, during the last year, much of my time has been occupied with the building of my church edifice, and from that cause I was not able to visit as many Roman Catholic families as otherwise I would. This, I trust, the Board will take into consideration.

"I have first to answer the questions which you address to me, in regard to Romanism and its influences here.

"The city of Detroit embraces now a population of 57,000 to 60,000 souls, and it appears that about one-third of this population are Roman Catholics, that is—19,000 or 20,000. The Roman Catholic population is divided into three great classes, viz. the Irish, which numbers about 8,000, the Germans about 7,000, and the French about 5,000. Besides these there are some Italians, Belgians, and Hungarians.

"There are five Roman Catholic churches in Detroit—two for the Irish population, (one is the Cathedral, a very large building, and the other is almost of the same size,) two are for the Germans, and one is for the French—a very large building in the centre of the city.

"There is here a Bishop, a Mr. Lefèvre, a Belgian, with 25 to 30 priests, who attend the above-mentioned churches.

"As far as I am informed, there are *nine* Roman Catholic schools here; eight of them are attached to the different churches. One is a select school, and known by the name of St. Vincent's School. These schools are frequented by about 900 scholars. There are here also 25 or 30 so-called 'Brothers,' and about

the same number of 'Sisters,' who have the direction of the schools above-mentioned.

"Besides churches and schools, the Roman Catholics have also an asylum for orphans, with from 75 to 100 children, and a large hospital. They have also a nunnery and several other associations, as 'St. Joseph's Society,' and the 'Ladies of the Sacred Heart,' etc.

"But what influence has this power upon the population here? As some Protestants profess to believe it has *none* upon their people, and *not much* upon intelligent Romanists themselves, the following facts may well be considered:—they show the contrary.

"On the first week of February last, we had a visit here from a German Roman Catholic missionary. He began to preach to the people, and to confess them for ten days. He preached in the morning, in the afternoon, and at night; and the church was all the time so crowded that a great number had to stay before the door. The excitement among the German Roman Catholics is hard to describe. To realize it, one must have seen it. Husband and wife, rich and poor, old and young, all came to hear that preacher. Drunkards, vicious men and women of every sort, who were not at confession, some for *ten*, others for *twenty* years, came to the missionary and got absolution of their sins! But this is not all. Roman Catholics whom I visited, and who were every time very glad to see me and to hear me, became cold and indifferent. Some among the PROTESTANTS whom I know went to hear the missionary, and I had great trouble to convince them of the errors in doctrine they had heard. *Two* Protestants whom I did not know were baptized by the priest! One is a man married to a Roman Catholic wife, and the other a woman whose husband is a Roman Catholic. From this fact we may learn at once that Romanism and Romanists have an influence even over Protestants. The Bishop possesses all the church edifices here in the city and its vicinity, with only one exception that I know. The people of Greenfield township continue to keep their church, and refuse to move it on the ground owned by the Bishop; but they are also without a priest. Besides the church edifices, the Bishop has a great many houses and stores in Detroit, and large tracts of land in the country.

"Notwithstanding this, the Bishop professes himself to be a poor man! Last year when he began to build his palace, close by his cathedral, he was *so poor* in money, that at the end of the service in the church he shut up the door, and did not allow anybody to go away before he had paid his contribution for the palace of the poor man!

"The priests are artful imitators of their master. A poor woman was sick and about to die. She sent for the priest. He came, but would not give the absolution, because the husband had not paid *four dollars*, the amount of contribution he promised for the erection of a new church. The Romanists here have schools for themselves, and do not allow the parents to send their children to the public schools. They forbid them to read the Bible, to receive tracts, or any other book about religion, from Protestants.

"I will now state very briefly my efforts here in regard to Romanism, and what are the results. I have already stated that much of my time has been spent the last year in collecting funds for the erection of a house where I could preach the gospel and instruct the people. I was therefore not able to visit as many families as I would. All I could do was to visit those families which had need to be visited, and to preach the gospel on the Sabbaths, both in the French and German languages, and to maintain my Bible-class twice in the week. In the last five months, however, I was able to do more than in the previous time in visiting from house to house. The number of visits made is about 1,200. I have used a great number of tracts in French, German, and English, but I have none now. I have also given away to Romanists two Bibles and one New Testament.

"Now what is the *result* of these labors? This question cannot be answered fully in this life—in the future world it may be; but the foundation is now laid for a good work to be begun. But some of the visible results are these:—

"1st. A very good little church, neatly and comfortably furnished, holding from 200 to 230 persons.

"2d. That we have now five services every Sabbath in that church. At nine o'clock in the morning, a Sabbath-school in German; at half-past ten, a service for adults in the same language. In the afternoon, at half-past one o'clock, begins the Sabbath-schools in the French language. After this follows the service in the same language for adults. At night, at half-past seven o'clock, I have a Bible-class, which is very interesting. I have also a Bible-class during the week.

"Two Roman Catholics have been converted, one a Frenchman and the other a German.

10. The Rev. J. B. C. BEAUBIEN, stationed at Burlington, has continued to labor during the year among the Canadian-French who have settled in large numbers in the northern part of the State of Vermont. His efforts have been unwearied, and his success most highly gratifying. In his report he says:

"Burlington, Hinesburgh, Shelburn, and Charlotte are the chief towns I have visited. To these I might add not less than nine others I have visited occasionally and with success.

"It has been my object not only to point the Romanist to the Lamb of God, but also to acquaint Americans with his condition, by lecturing on Romanism, by private conversations, and by various other means.

"The French people in this section, having a certain knowledge of the English, so as to understand preaching in that language, and my congregations in some places being composed of Americans as well as of French, I have often preached in English, and the result has been a greater interest on the part of the

Americans in the French, and many of the French attend meeting with the Americans when I am not among them.

"I have distributed 50 Bibles, 55 Testaments, and 500 tracts. The number of meetings I have held is 190: besides these I have delivered 80 lectures on Romanism to mixed congregations, varying from 50 to 300 persons.

"As to my meetings, they have been generally well attended, although many of my sermons were in English; yet I have always had but one aim, namely, the enlightenment of the Romanists. I have spoken from texts easily explained and understood, and which were calculated to show the difference between Christ and the Pope, the Christian religion and Romanism.

"The number of families (Romanist) I have visited is 200. Most of these I have visited very often: among them are found educated, intelligent, and serious-minded persons who are in search of truth.

"In addition to these families, I have oftentimes conversed with forty individuals on religious subjects. Some of these I have met in public places, others I have called upon, and others still have called upon me. I might say much about these, calculated to encourage and gladden the hearts of many; but waiting until the seed has taken deeper root, and praying the Lord of the harvest to hasten that time, I will only relate how two among them were led to discover their errors.

"The Roman Catholics teach that baptism is a sacrament which blots out 'original sin,' and makes us 'children of God' and 'the church.' These two individuals had been taught this in their youth, and had often been reminded of it since, and very forcibly a few weeks ago, when the Bishop baptized the bell of the French church of Burlington. This baptizing surprised them—it was indeed mysterious to them. Soon after they called on me, related what they had seen, and referred to what they had been taught, and then asked me how to reconcile these two things. I merely asked them what a bell had to do with 'original sin,' and how could a bell become a 'child of God' and 'the church?' They left me, wondering how it was that they had been kept so long in the Roman church without discovering these inconsistencies.

"Without attempting to give the exact number, I may say in truth that a large number of *families* in this part of the State, who, the year preceeding, were Romanists, have during the year just closed bid an eternal farewell to Rome and her idols.

"The number of those who have embraced Christ is about ten, some of whom have joined different churches, and others will probably do so soon. The good work of reformation is widening and deepening its influence every month.

SPANISH MISSION.

Miss RANKIN is at Brownsville, on the Rio Grande, in the State of Texas. Her seminary, designed to promote the "principles of religious liberty and a pure Christianity," as well as education,

has met with stern and protracted opposition from Papal sources, but it has grown upon the confidence of the people, and is a valuable auxillary to the cause of evangelical truth.

Miss Rankin, in behalf of the Board, instructs *twenty* indigent Mexican girls of good talent and fair promise, that they may, in due time, return to Mexico, to act as teachers or to be otherwise useful. She also distributes Bibles and tracts in the town, and maintains an interesting Sunday-school, which is attended by many adults—Mexicans as well as children. She says:

“Perhaps there may not be upon the face of the earth a people more completely under the slavish yoke of the Papacy than the natives of Mexico. So hopeless appears their case as to enlightenment, that the remark has become proverbial, that ‘the priests have them, soul and body,’ and therefore it is argued that ‘any efforts made in their behalf will be ineffectual.’

“Had I drawn my inference on the subject from human indications, I should probably have never made an attempt in their behalf. The command, however, of our Savior, to carry his Gospel ‘to every creature,’ seemed to me as imperative in the case of the Mexicans as in any other, and the refusal to do anything to bring them under its saving influence, I felt was limiting its efficacy, as well as disobeying a direct command.

“My first effort in their behalf was to plant a seminary upon the frontier, into which I might gather their female children, and instruct them in the principles of a pure Christianity. One of the most effectual means for the reformation of an immense country, I considered to be the influence which its females, if properly educated, might exert. Although the proper education of Mexican girls is, as I find it, attended with many difficulties, yet the hope of effecting a salutary and permanent impression upon the country encourages me to make strenuous and persevering efforts for it.

“During the past year I have had in my school 42 different Mexican children; yet, because of counteracting influences which are exerted, I find it difficult to keep them all in constant and regular attendance. I was able, however, during the former portion of the year, to retain 20, but in the latter portion to keep more. In that part of the time 30 very interesting and promising girls attended constantly. These children have a good capacity for learning, and some have made considerable advances in various branches of education. But however desirable their intellectual improvement may appear, I regard it as important, mainly, as it tends or may stand related to their moral improvement. To educate Roman Catholics, as such, would be but to increase their capacity for evil. Hence, the work of the education of these girls I feel to be a deeply-responsible one; and if not performed aright, it would have been, in some respects, better not to have been done at all. I should be overwhelmed in view of it, did I not indulge the hope that the instructions communicated to them from

day to day will be sanctified to them by the Spirit and Word of God. I trust I am not mistaken, nor resting, as to my faith, upon an unwarrantable foundation, when I believe that the effects of my feeble exertions in behalf of these Mexican girls may be felt to the end of time, and that glorious fruits from them may be reaped even in the eternal world. My aim, in their education, is to prepare them to be teachers in their own country and among their own people. And if their hearts are changed, and they are imbued with and actuated by the Spirit of the Gospel, may we not reasonably hope that their influence will be effective of permanent good.

“ Besides my week-day school, I have kept up, as to numbers, a very good Sunday-school, which gives me additional and a greater opportunity for communicating religious instruction. Although no effort to get Mexicans to attend a Protestant church would succeed, I find very little difficulty in prevailing upon them to attend the Sabbath-school in my seminary building. Such is the idea with which their minds have been impressed in regard to and against Protestantism, that they look upon a Protestant church as the way to perdition. Their priests tell them so, and of course they believe it. It seems that the only means of enlightening them at present (either adults or children) consists in going to their houses, or gathering them into schools.

“ An important part of my labors during the past year has been the distribution of Bibles and Tracts; and although the Bible is strictly forbidden by the priests, I have found but *two* instances of Mexicans who refused it. I have distributed nearly *two hundred* Bibles and Testaments, and about *twelve thousand* pages of Tracts. In my visits among their hacals I have often gone, where to go I naturally felt the deepest repugnance; yet the kindness with which I have uniformly been received, and the thankfulness which has been manifested for the books, have more than compensated me for all my trouble and self-denial. I have very satisfactory evidence that the books are read, and in some instances with good results.

“ As I advance in my efforts for them, I feel an increase of confidence. I cannot doubt but God has placed these Mexicans upon our soil, and under our government, in order to enlighten them; and it seems to me that he requires it at our hands. The work at present is but in the incipient stage, yet the *first* steps have to be taken towards the evangelization of any people who are to be turned from idols to the worship of the living God. If I may but prepare the way for more effectual means to be used here, I shall deem it no small achievement.

“ The Mexican girls which I have in my school have nearly *all* come from the Roman Catholic convent, where they were required to fall down before the image of the Virgin Mary every hour in the day. To get them away from such things, and put into their hands the pure Word of God, and instruct them daily in its saving truths, I feel to be an important acquisition. And as I carry the Bible to their deluded parents, and find them willing to receive it, can I fail to believe that a work is commenced which God will carry out to his own glory? I cannot say that now souls are here ‘born of God,’ yet may I not hope the

means employed will bring about results so desirable? Although the Mexican soil may appear hard and unpropitious, yet I believe whoever waits for 'the early and latter rain,' will surely see that 'God's hand is not shortened,' 'nor that he is slack concerning his promises.'"

From the extracts now submitted, a distinct view may be had of the above specified form of missionary labor, and also of its fitness and usefulness. Additional details are perhaps unnecessary. The Board therefore proceed to speak of another form of missionary labor which they have conducted, designed to operate on a broader surface of the Papal mind in this country. They refer to the plan of addressing the Romanists, and discussing the doctrines and practices of the Papacy in

PUBLIC LECTURES.

Impressed with a sense of the importance of this form of labor from their past experience of its great usefulness, the Board have given much attention to it, and to the procuring of suitable persons for its performance and they are happy to be able to state that the Rev. M. F. FENNELL, of St. Louis, Mo., who under their patronage has been preparing himself for this service, and from whose qualifications they hope for much good to his fellow-countrymen, the Irish, is now ready to enter upon it. Indeed, in the latter part of the year just closed, he commenced his efforts in this department, under the direction of the Rev. Mr. ROSSETER in the valley of the Ohio, with encouraging results.

He will continue in the West, that great field so exciting to Papal desires and ambition, already comprising vast multitudes of Romanists of many nations, and whose moral and religious character will exert a powerful influence on the future history of our Republic.

The Rev. Mr. Leo

Has been continued during the year in this service. His field of labor has been New-England and the State of New-York. In this field, by this method, vast numbers of Romanists have been led to examine, as never before, the doctrines of the Romish church, and to see their defenseless and unscriptural character,

and the baseless nature of the claims of Rome to their obedience or respect. Many THOUSANDS have thus been led to hear the fundamental truths of the Gospel, (especially the way of salvation by faith in Christ alone, without the admixture of human merit, or interposition of saints or angels,) who otherwise would probably never have heard them. And a good number of those who were bowed down by the oppression of the superstitious and unscriptural rites forced upon them by the hierarchy, have been led to renounce the Papacy as a system of religion. Some have given credible evidence of conversion to Christ, and at least SIX young men have been rescued from the system, and are now in Protestant institutions preparing for the work of the Gospel ministry.

Besides delivering lectures to Romanists, Mr. LEO has preached to many Protestant congregations in the meantime, on subjects connected with the designs of the Society. A brief yet interesting view of his labors and some of their results may be seen in the extract which we subjoin from his

Annual Report.

Mr. LEO says :

“ My labors under the Society during the last year have been carried on in New-England and in the State of New-York. In the capacity of public lecturer and agent I have delivered 208 public addresses on the general subject of Romanism, in the presence of large Protestant and Romanist audiences, both on the Sabbath and week-days, in the following places, viz.—Lee, Mass.; Providence, R. I.; New-London, New-Haven, Hartford, and Bridgeport, Conn.; Buffalo, Rochester, and Albany, New-York.

“ My work among the Romanists was confined mainly to the delivering of a series of public discourses on the leading doctrinal errors of their church. Admittance to those courses of lectures was, in all cases, *free*; and the attendance on the part of the Romanists continued to be large and regular to the close.

“ I have been in this way enabled during the past year to bring the great and saving truths of the Protestant faith, and the sound scriptural arguments that confirm them, within reach of *about 12,000 Roman Catholics*. Of this number 26 have been led to see the errors of the Papal system, who have united themselves with various Protestant churches.

“ I have visited for religious purposes, within the year, 112 Roman Catholic families, and 163 individuals of that persuasion. I have distributed 94 copies of the Sacred Scriptures among Roman Catholic families, besides 2,000 tracts and small publications on the subject of Romanism.

"In addition to the above services rendered, I may say that I have collected during the year about \$1.500 (fifteen hundred dollars) in the churches by presenting the claims of the Society from Sabbath to Sabbath.

"The above are the details of the work which, by the good providence of God and the permission of the Society, I have performed among Irish Romanists and others in the country, during the Society's year which has just closed.

"This is my seventh year in the service of the Society, the last three of which I have spent in preaching the Gospel of Christ among my Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen in this land. And now, before closing this report, I desire to embody in it a few thoughts and suggestions relative to our work, and which I deem of considerable moment, from a pretty extensive personal acquaintance both with the work in which this Society is engaged as well as with the results already achieved by the Society.

"1. I am more encouraged than ever to carry on this work against Rome.

"So also, I doubt not, is this Society itself. True, 'they that be against us are many, but manifold more are they that be for us.' God has permitted me to see much good fruit of my labors in the opening of the eyes of many deluded Romanists. Nor do I know of a single point at which the other laborers of the Society are employed where the same happy results may not be seen also.

"These and similar facts pertaining to this subject, should have no other effect than to arouse the earnest activity of every real Protestant in the land, to perform what yet is lacking of this all-important work. 'NOW OR NEVER' should be our rallying cry. Rome dreads the progress of the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION much more than she dreads any other Society on this continent. And well she may, for what other Society has made or is making such breaches in her ranks in so many parts of the world?

"2. The church of Rome is making the most vigorous efforts to establish her supremacy over these United States.

"All men should keep this in mind: *Rome aims at the complete conquest of America.* Nothing less than the entire subjection of this Republic to the Vatican will satisfy the ambition of her hierarchy. She hopes to indemnify herself here for all her losses in Europe. To effect this plan, her greatest resources are now turned upon this country. The Society of the Propaganda in Lyons, France; the Leopold Institute of Vienna; the foremost men in the Jesuit order; the best trained nuns in Europe; the most expensive mission she now supports; the ablest talent at her command; *all, all* are vigorously at work in these United States to-day at the bidding of their Italian master.

"3. In order to thwart the operations of Rome among us, and bring her people into the liberty of the Gospel, *a more thorough union* of the Protestant denominations is needed.

"If Protestantism would obtain great and speedy triumphs over their common enemy, Rome, it must be by solid and cohesive union of their ranks. On whatever other subject or subjects they may be separated, they should be truly united in resisting the further progress of Popery in the world."

LOCAL AGENTS AND VOLUNTARY ASSISTANTS.

As heretofore, the Board have enjoyed the co-operation of many private friends, male and female, in various and widely separated sections of the country, and of all its leading religious denominations.

From the American Bible and Tract Societies, the American Sunday-School Union, the Massachusetts Sunday-School Society, the Young Men and Young Ladies' Bible Societies of Pittsburgh and Alleghany cities; from various ladies' associations and sewing-circles, and other charitable organizations; and from very many ladies and gentlemen in their individual capacities, they have received books, tracts, clothing, and various articles for the use and comfort of the missionaries, the benefit of the children in the mission schools, and of the people in whose behalf the missionaries labor.

The gifts bestowed, and the service rendered, (and a large part of the service has been GRATUITOUS,) have been of very great importance, and imparted very much to the usefulness and success of the undertaking in given places. With very great pleasure, therefore, the Board here record, and respectfully express to the managers of these institutions, and to the various persons who have aided them, their high appreciation of their co-operation and help.

In closing what they have to say in regard to the Home Field at this time, the Board would add, that the number of laborers employed, the whole or parts of the year, in the various branches of the Society's service in the United States, is SEVENTY-ONE—four more than were reported the year preceding.

The number of individuals, however, interested in the Society's operations, in addition to those who give their personal attention considerable portions of time on Sabbath-days and on week-days, in conjunction with the missionaries, to the instruction of Romanists and their children, amounts to many more than this number. At no time has the home field had so numerous, judicious, and able a force in it, co-operating with the Board, as now. And it is matter of devout thankfulness that there is rising in the churches of the land a spirit of inquiry, and of desire to do something *personally* for the promotion of the welfare of the Papal population.

The success revealed in the few brief reports which are inserted in the preceding pages, afford ample encouragement to enter upon the work with confidence in its practicability; and it administers a strong rebuke to that feeling that has prevented many nominal Christians from engaging in it themselves, or encouraging others to engage in it.

And in the evidence which the same reports disclose of the constant augmentation in the United States of Rome's numbers and wealth, and means not merely of self-support but of aggression; and of her multiplied appliances for holding her deluded votaries firmly in her grasp, and keeping them away from the influence of the divinely appointed means of grace, and also of her extremely corrupt and anti-Christian character, there is sounded out a trumpet-toned appeal to every patriot and Christian, to come up at once and with all earnestness to the work. There is no time to be lost. Sloth, and unbelief, and self-confidence, on the part of Protestants, have already granted much within our national limits to the "Man of Sin," and allowed him to entrench himself almost (it may be quite) beyond the possibility of dislodgement; and if indulged much longer, may entail upon them and their children calamities which, for severity and destructive power, have no parallel.

But the Board are not prepared to anticipate this issue. They confidently look for the waking up of the slumbering minds throughout the nation. They anticipate a great and happy change in regard to the action of all evangelical Christians, touching the reformation of the corrupted parts of Christendom. They already see its coming in the wonderful increase of interest which has been manifested on the part of the people in the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, and in kindred institutions which labor for the same specific object within the past ten years. They will therefore labor on, in the desire and confident expectation of that glorious consummation, and without any gloomy foreboding of the triumphs of that "wicked one, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

With this brief review of the Home Field, we pass to notice the operations in the Foreign Field.

FOREIGN FIELD.

GENERAL CONDITION.

The state of the Popedom abroad, whether in Europe or America, presents an exciting spectacle. At one while we hear, from Papal Allocutions, most doleful moans over the defections from the Romish faith and obedience, and the injuries sustained by that church at the hand of governments which profess to follow her religion, though they grasp at her riches and circumscribe her authority. There is much plaintive lamentation over the decay of that good old mediæval piety, whose chief excellence consisted in swallowing all the Romish dogmas, devotions, decrees, fables, superstitions, and idolatries, without reflection and without a murmur—a piety which delighted to lavish in life all its money on the priests, and in death to leave them all its land. Things are different now. Bibles are getting to be distressingly common, where once they were never heard of; and people will think, who used to let the clergy do all their thinking for them. Sad, indeed! What is the world coming to, and especially the poor patrimony of St. Peter, and his eldest son, the Pope?

But in the midst of these lugubrious strains, we also hear the highest-toned assertions of the church's claims, just as she exercised them in the darkest ages of her undisputed supremacy. The Pope does not hesitate to veto the legislation of so-called "Catholic States," like Sardinia and Mexico; and to declare their laws null and void, and of no force or effect whatever. This he does in language worthy of the palmiest days of his predecessors, when they reigned as vicegerents of God, in all their Hildebrandine pomp, and power, and pride. Desperate efforts, too, are made to give effect to these haughty claims. Thus the definition of the silly dogma of the Immaculate Conception was made with all possible solemnity and pageantry, in the expectation that it would inflame the expiring zeal of the nations, and work up a grand revival of fanaticism, like that which did Rome such good service in the days of the Crusaders. This measure, however, though it was a bold stretch of church power and policy, does not seem to have had the hoped-for result. Something more tangible has been

gained by the *concordat* with Austria, by which the young Emperor seems to have made almost a complete surrender of the civil rights of his empire, and also of the individual liberties of his subjects, if ever they had anything of that kind. Similar compacts have been almost concluded with some other despotic governments. But the advantages derived by the Austrian *concordat* seem to have been thus far rather doubtful, and even attended with danger. Such cords, like the strings of the viol, when they are screwed the tightest are the nearer to breaking. On the whole, it is plain that the moral and political strength of Popery is on the wane, being ever weakened by the advance of human intelligence and the resistless spread of truth. Yet the strength of Rome is still terrible, and continually works with deadly energy to destroy the souls of men.

We proceed to give a cursory view of missionary labors, during the last year, in different portions of the Papal world; not omitting to sketch slightly the state of those populations, where no direct missionary operations are carried on.

CANADA.

The French Canadian Missionary Society is at work with all its former energy, but encountering much opposition, and much "passive resistance" from the prevailing ignorance and the dullness it generates. This Society enumerates above a thousand known converts since its labors began: besides having diffused a vast amount of Scriptural truth, a seed which is oftentimes long in germinating, but yields much precious fruit when the sower has ceased to look for it. The converts' churches are still small and feeble, in consequence of the frequent removal of members, who resort to western emigration as a retreat from the petty persecutions of their old Popish neighbors.

The Grand Ligne Mission, which is conducted under Baptist auspices, and by the use of similar means, among which Christian education is prominent, encounters the same difficulties, and with a similar degree of success.

Last summer, the Romish Bishop of Toronto, on the Sunday, read a letter from the altar of his cathedral, denouncing by name four gentlemen, members of the Provincial Cabinet or Canadian

Government. These gentlemen, who were present in the church, were thus denounced, because, in performing their official duties in the Provincial Legislature, they would not vote as their Bishop required them to do in matters relating to ecclesiastical interests. The passionate prelate can only have damaged his own cause by such violence as this.

There has been a migration of some two thousand families of French Canadians to our State of Illinois. The leader in the movement is a priest by the name of Chiniquy, who had distinguished himself, while in Canada, by his zeal in the cause of temperance, and his violent opposition to the Protestant missionaries. Since his removal, he has had immense trouble with his present ecclesiastical overseer, Mr. O'Regan, who styles himself Bishop of Chicago. Churches and other property, which the Canadians had provided at their own expense, have been wrested from them, the churches given to the Irish, and most of the proceeds of the other property transferred to that ready receptacle, the Bishop's capacious pocket. Father Chiniquy and other Canadian priests have made all the resistance they could, but in vain. They lie under sentence of excommunication, yet persist in the discharge of their clerical duties. They have appealed most earnestly to the Canadian Bishops; but these, as usually happens in such cases, sustain their Irish brother in his grasping and oppressive course. Meanwhile, the laity, both in Illinois and Canada, have had terrible "indignation meetings," and have issued very highly-seasoned resolutions, denouncing Bishop O'Regan as a robber, a liar, and a tyrant. The end is not yet. As to the probable results, we know well that "the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God;" but it can hardly fail to come to pass, when the hour of calm reflection comes, that the injured Canadians will feel that a religion which inflicts and defends such wrongs cannot be from God.

Not only in Canada, but in all the British North American provinces, the struggle between Papists and Protestants is assuming a political character, and threatens to become very bitter. In Lower Canada the law has ceased to punish Roman culprits, when the sufferer by their wrong-doings is a Protestant. Missionaries are mobbed, and the houses of converts are sacked, with complete

impunity. At Halifax the Protestants are organizing themselves politically for self-defense, and it is very doubtful what the result will be. From St. John's the Protestants are said to be removing, unable to endure the overbearing predominance of their Irish fellow-colonists; and Prince Edward's Island is convulsed by the agitation of the question, Whether God's Holy Bible shall be ignominiously banished from the public-schools, as a bad book adapted to deprave the minds and morals of the young? A dark and desperate conflict is going on among our neighbors in the British provinces; and they must no longer be forgotten in our prayers. Possibly our brethren there have needed these trials to raise them fully to their duty of spreading the light which God has given them so richly to enjoy. To spread it, is often the only condition on which it may be kept from being extinguished. There are times when "the morning cometh, and also the night;" and if the morning come not the faster of the two, the darkness will gain upon it and quench it altogether.

HAYTI.

Rev. ARTHUR WARING D'ESSEN has persevered in his arduous labors at Cape Haytien, and at various other stations. Don-don, the scene of his first remarkable successes, whence Popery is quite purged out, still prospers under the care of a young and highly intelligent brother. There are four or five other places where a like important service is performed by native evangelists and assistants, who also do much itinerant preaching. The work among this singular population, whose manners and morals present some very strange aspects, is steadily growing in efficiency and importance. The wickedness which prevails is frightful, and much of it cannot be detailed before the public. It is greatly stimulated by the more than ordinarily corrupted Popery of the people. Nowhere, perhaps—no, not in Africa itself—are missionaries of the Gospel more needed than here.

The ordinances have to be administered with much caution, usually at midnight. A considerable number of converts have been baptized at Cape Haytien, one of them formerly a priest, and most of the others are persons of considerable influence. The walk of all the converts for the most part is worthy of their high

vocation; and but one or two cases of discipline have ever occurred, and these seem to have had due effect in reclaiming the backsliders. During the year, Mr. Waring has baptized sixteen converts, of whom nine were males. At last advices, a number more were to be baptized in a few days. The Government, of late, has given but little trouble to the converts, though some have been imprisoned for short terms. The prospect of an extending work of grace among this poor people is very encouraging. Nowhere is the outpouring of the Spirit more needed. No country appeals more strongly to the sympathies of all who are faithful in Christ Jesus.

CUBA.

This beautiful island still seems to be effectually screened from the rays of a pure Gospel, under the old Spanish system, which has made such vigorous and cruel use of the Inquisition and "the secular arm." But political changes cannot be far distant, whereby the strength of intolerance will be broken, and the truth shall here also perform its peaceful and saving work.

MEXICO.

This unhappy country, where nature has been so bountiful and man so vile, is still agitated by political earthquakes. Among the explosive elements which produce these convulsions, one of the most powerful is priestly ambition and intrigue. The existing government found itself compelled to strip the Romish church of some of its enormous wealth, the gathered spoil of ages of superstitious imposture, by whose accumulation the State had become so impoverished as to be unable to keep the machinery of government in motion. Papal Allocutions have dolefully bewailed this restitution of ill-gotten goods, and not only protested against it, but proclaimed it a nullity.

That Mexico, by desperate efforts, is gradually withdrawing her neck from the ecclesiastical yoke, is abundantly evident from the language of the Pope himself. In his Allocution of December 15th, 1856, he thus begins: "Never did we think, Venerable Brethren, that, to the great grief of Our heart, we should be compelled to lament and deplore the affliction, and even prostration of the interests of the Catholic Church in the Republic of Mexico."

He then goes into a long strain of complaints, to the effect that the Government had abolished the Ecclesiastical Courts, *alias* the Inquisitorial Tribunals, throughout the country; had "not scrupled to declare that it would never subject its acts to the authority of the Apostolic See;" had banished certain prelates for making factious opposition to its decrees; had tampered with monks and nuns to forsake their cloisters, and resume their forsaken relations and duties to society; had interdicted the reception of new members into the monastic orders; and had, "in order more easily to corrupt the manners and minds of the people, and to propagate that abominable and disastrous pestilence of 'indifferentism to religion,' and to achieve the destruction of Our holy religion, granted full and entire liberty to all sects whatever, to publish and carry out openly all sorts of opinions and statements." It is further deplored, that the Government had taken measures to prevent the banished prelates from circulating seditious documents in Mexico, under the name of "Pastoral Letters;" and had also quite extinguished one or two of the Religious Orders, Jesuits and Franciscans, and confiscated their revenues to the public treasury.

Having thus set forth his grievances, the "Holy Father," asserting the old claim of his See to absolute power over all nations and rulers, and their laws, raises his "Pontifical voice" to the following tone:—"We condemn, disallow, and declare absolutely null and of no effect, all the decrees above-mentioned, and all the acts which the civil power in Mexico has done in contempt of the Ecclesiastical authority, and of the Apostolic See." Then follows a "broad-toed hint" as to the peril to which the Mexican Government and people are exposed of being crushed and annihilated by the terrific thunders of excommunication! Though more recent intelligence from Mexico seems to indicate that the Government, staggered by the desperate struggles of the clergy, is halting somewhat in the path of its reforms, it is plain that Popery in that country can never again be what it has been. Like an old ship beached in a gale, it lies hogged, strained, bilged, leaking at a thousand seams; and though it may be got off and kept afloat for awhile, it can never be "mistress of the seas" again.

It is deeply to be regretted that a band of faithful Protestant

missionaries does not offer itself to rush into this sphere of evangelical effort, and strive to bring that people into the liberty of the Gospel, which alone can secure and bless the liberties of the State. Still, some almost imperceptible influences begin to penetrate into Mexico from Texas on the one side, and from California on the other. These States, once her provinces, and equally subject with her to Papal domination, are now so deeply Protestantized as to infuse something of the new leaven within her borders.

It must not be omitted that the Mexican Government has issued a recent proclamation, in which the Papal Allocution quoted above is spoken of as probably a forged document. But it is distinctly stated, that even in case it should prove to be authentic, Mexico will not change her policy at the Holy Father's dictation.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

This group of States is destined to great vicissitudes and miseries as to their political condition, during which there seems to be little opportunity for systematic exertions to amend their lot in a religious view. But holding, as they do, the ground over which a vast amount of the commerce of the world must seek its transits from ocean to ocean, it appears as if relief may arise from that quarter. The various lines for trade and travel now forming, or already made and in use, will create a necessity for settled government and religious liberty, whereby, at no distant day, there will be an abundant entrance for missionary operations of every kind. Both branches of the great Anglo-Saxon race, impelled by the spirit of commercial enterprise, are pressing into those regions, whose thin population, whether Indian, Spanish, or mixed, may ere long be absorbed by emigration from Britain and the States, and thus made Protestant, as many portions of North-America, once Papal, have already become.

NEW-GRANADA.

An agent of the American Bible Society has been laboring in Carthagená, apparently with considerable success, both in preaching the Gospel and in circulating the Holy Scriptures, which are incomparable preachers in their way, though they by no means supersede the spoken word, but, on the contrary, ordain and en-

join it. This agent, after having revisited the United States, is now again at his former work, supported, we believe, by zealous friends of his enterprise. If suitable missionaries could be found qualified to preach in the Spanish tongue, it would be exceedingly desirable to send them to New-Granada, where religious toleration is established by law, much to the chagrin of "the Holy Father" at Rome. The British and Foreign Bible Society have an agent at Bogota, where he is printing an edition of the Bible in Spanish. This will be a new thing under the sun, and will lead to other new things. These Bibles will be read; and, by God's blessing on his own word of truth, they will result in producing many new hearts and new spirits among the readers; and these again will call for new and faithful preachers of the Word, and even create them.

BRAZIL.

The Brazilians are an amiable people, and somewhat intelligent, though wretchedly instructed, or not instructed at all. Their religion has almost wholly run into Mariolatry and the most childish and noisy ceremonies. Of the missionaries whom at different times we have sent into this country, none have been subjected to open persecution, which is not likely to be practised under the enlightened administration of the present Emperor. In June, 1855, we sent Rev. V. D. COLLINS to Rio Janeiro. He is a most discreet and estimable man; and it is hoped he may soon return to that country which so greatly needs such spiritual benefactors. His experience there confirms that of our missionaries in other South American States, who have found so great a desire for instruction in the English language that they have been able to support themselves by teaching it to the youth, either in the *collegios*, or boarding-schools, or in private tuition. This course has many advantages, besides its economy of missionary funds. The teacher learns the language of the natives while he is imparting to them his own. He also, while teaching the English tongue, can make it the vehicle of religious truths, and can often use as his text-book the Bible, "that well of purest English undefiled." At the same time, he is forming intimate acquaintanceships and acquiring personal influence, in preparation for the time when he

may preach the Gospel to the people "in their own tongue wherein they were born." It is very doubtful, however, whether any attempt to do this openly would be tolerated in Brazil, or anywhere else in Southern America. Protestant preaching to foreigners is winked at by the local authorities ; but if publicly attempted among the native population, would almost certainly be suppressed at once. Still, much can be done in more private ways to infuse the leaven of the Gospel among the masses, and to stimulate its working. And when, by the grace of God, there shall be a sufficient number of converts made, it will be fully time to test the question of religious liberty in a practical way, and to gain the point, as has been so often done, through the patient sufferings and perseverance of those who have embraced the truth in Jesus.

The Rev. V. D. Collins, of whom we have just spoken, has returned to this country, where he has been exercising his ministry during the winter in one of our largest cities, but with the expectation of returning to South America at an early day. We sincerely hope that he will do so, as we believe him eminently qualified to act as a missionary in that region. His observations lead to the belief that, under the frivolity with which the Papal religion manifests itself in that country, there is a strong attachment to it. To be sure, it runs very much into feastings, parades, processions, and all manner of noisy demonstrations. But it is by thus *amusing* them with gay and pleasurable excitement, that the "Holy Church" secures the affections of an excitable, unintelligent, and simple-minded sort of people. They are thus stirred up so as to keep them from reflection. Somewhat on the same principle, old Muley Ismael, Emperor of Morocco, in the last century, was wont to say, that "his subjects were like a lot of rats in a bag : they could be kept from gnawing their way out, only by shaking them up all the time."

In Brazil may be seen the strange spectacle so often presented in Papal countries, of a *divorce between religion and morality*. The dissoluteness of manners there, and in many other South American countries, will not bear description ; and in this dissoluteness it is but too evident that the priesthood has, as a body, set the pattern and led the way.

With many tokens of rising prosperity, Brazil is a country

whose amazing natural advantages have hardly begun to be developed. The most of its territory is still unexplored and unknown. The mighty Amazon, whose broad billow freshens the main ocean for a many a league, has a continuous path for steam navigation of thirty-five hundred miles, and several times that number on the by-paths of her immense and numerous affluents. Yet the pulse of commerce is scarcely felt on this huge and branching artery. Civilization and settlement are confined to scattered villages and hamlets on her banks. Leave these but a short distance, and nothing is known, except that the vast regions beyond are roamed by savages tribes, whose religion is an amalgam of aboriginal paganism with the idolatry imported from Rome. The accommodating maxims of the Jesuit missionaries did more to heathenize Christianity than to christianize the heathens. "Much land remaineth to be possessed," before a pure and purifying Gospel can obtain its due place in these unevangelized territories.

A beginning is made, by active efforts, to let in the Bible there and give it free course. The British and Foreign Bible Society has established an agency at Rio; and the American Bible Society has sent to the valley of the Amazon an effective and zealous distributor of God's Word, who has formerly had considerable and very encouraging success as a volunteer in that line of effort. Much is to be hoped from the wide diffusion of the Scriptures, which are able to make them wise unto salvation, among a race having many amiable traits of character, and who are very generally taught to read, though but scantily supplied with reading-matter.

BUENOS AYRES.

In the city of this name, numbering above a hundred thousand inhabitants, the Methodist Episcopal church has a small society, a flourishing school, and an active mission. Glad that thus much is done for this attractive country, to which there is a considerable migration from Europe, we must wish that far more extensive effort were made to rescue the people from the grasp of superstition, and to bring them under the ennobling power of truth. Superstition, as a remedy for sin, is a quack-medicine which only aggravates the disease and hastens death. The

Gospel, without human admixtures or satanic adulterations, alone can heal the soul's deep and deadly disease.

CHILI.

Our mission at Valparaiso has suffered by the removal of Rev. MOSES A. WILLIAMS to California, where we hope he will yet do good service to our cause in which he has labored so earnestly. He retains the full confidence of the Board, which greatly regret his removal from Chili, a measure made necessary by his health and other weighty considerations. He has recently made an exploring tour, without expense to our treasury, into the regions of Vancouver's and Puget's Sounds. He speaks of horrible massacres perpetrated by the Indians there, who have been by no means civilized by the long labors of the Papal missionaries among them. He learned, also, the significant fact, that notwithstanding the bloody outrages of the Indians, Roman Catholics, so called, travel among them with impunity, and are supposed to be furnished with signs and pass-words.

But we must return to Chili. The Rev. David Trumbull has sustained himself for years as a preacher and teacher at Valparaiso without any expense to us, deriving his support from his pupils and congregation, which numbers some two hundred and fifty English, Scotch, and American residents. There is a church having about fifty in communion. When he was sent there by us, eleven years ago, it was thought a good audience if he had ten hearers. There is a very neat place of worship in a central part of the city, which cost about \$17,000, and which, with the aid of \$1,000 from the American Seaman's Friend Society, has been almost paid for by friends on the spot. There was at first some difficulty with the civil authorities about opening the new place of worship; but it has now been used for a year without molestation. It was necessary, however, to erect a fence above twelve feet high in front of the chapel, "to take off the publicity of it." On the subject of religious toleration, the Government of Chili is liberally inclined, and the belief in the justice of it gains ground among the people, but the laws do not yet recognize the principle.

OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

Of these, alas! there is little or nothing to relate, as to efforts for their evangelization, or any immediate prospect of them.

Scarcely any part of the world seems so generally abandoned to the Pope, as if by the common consent of Protestant Christendom. Missionaries are sailing all around their coasts, to get at the heathens thinly scattered upon the islands of the sea, while these continental heathens,—far more numerous, more accessible, and not less in need of the word of salvation,—are abandoned to their fate. There are none to pity them among our youthful heralds of the cross, and they seem almost forgotten from the prayers of the churches. How long is this culpable indifference to last? “O Lord, how long?” The destinies of those South American States seem to be politically and religiously linked to the United States of North America, by that isthmian process which attaches their continent to ours. Oh that all our example and action, in reference to them, may help them on to truth and freedom!

IRELAND.

This island, so long the blind and doating slave of a superstition which debased it, and perpetuated the debasement it had made, shows signal tokens of a great moral revolution. Popery can no longer boast of its overwhelming majority among the people. This change is owing to several causes. The awful depopulation caused by famine and pestilence, not many years since, fell chiefly upon the wretched Romanists, whose deeper poverty, filthy abodes, and intemperance and improvidence, exposed them more to the stroke of the destroyer. Moreover, the exodus of her children flocking to distant lands, and so largely, to the United States, and still continuing the out-go, is drawn mainly from the Papal population. And again, to supply, in some measure, the drain of agricultural labor thus withdrawn from the country, there is a considerable influx of Protestant settlers. And lastly, there has been a steady work of conversion to the principles of the Reformation, which already counts among its subjects about one hundred thousand souls. If things should hold their present course for only three or four years more, the numerical majority will be on the Protestant side, which already has a great moral and social preponderance. The scale turned thus fully, we may reasonably expect that the day will not be distant when this isle of the sea shall quite throw off the galling

yoke of Popery. The Christian people of England and Scotland are making vigorous efforts to evangelize Ireland, as are also the Protestants of Ireland itself. Perhaps these efforts might be still more successful, if they were conducted in the spirit of Christian union. But sectarianism is singularly rife and rampant in that country, and but little is seen of co-operative Protestantism, striving, not to propagate a sect, but to spread the power of Christ's salvation. This want of harmony causes much evil in many ways. It not only weakens the strength of Protestants, by exhausting upon internal controversies as to non-essentials, the energies which ought to be spent in defeating Popery; but it also perplexes the ignorant Papist, and tempts him to linger in the house of bondage. It prevents such measures for the disendowment by the Government of the Popish college at Maynooth as would be effectual, if nothing were thought of but the demand of principle and consistency in regard to this enormous abuse.

Inasmuch as the native Irish cherish a deep national and religious dislike of the English, and are strongly disinclined to receive their evangelization from that quarter; and inasmuch as they regard with considerable affection the United States as the asylum of several millions of their countrymen, and are receiving from this country many millions of dollars every year, remitted for the relief or the passage-money of friends left behind; for these reasons, urged upon us by Christian friends in Ireland, we have commenced an AMERICAN MISSION there. It is under the supervision of eight highly respectable gentlemen in Dublin, of four different evangelical denominations: one of them acts as secretary and superintendent. Their rules are closely conformed to the settled principles and policy of this Society. Several Bible-readers and colporteurs, picked men, and among the very best of this class of laborers, are employed at small stipends in very benighted regions. The number is to be increased, in the first instance, to ten; and, if these efforts, by the Divine blessing, shall prove to be successful, we shall be led to take further steps in the same direction, relying upon the special aid of the numerous and eminently respectable Irish Protestants and their children in this country. This may yet prove for them a favorite missionary scheme.

SWEDEN.

In Sweden we afford some support to two most excellent men, who are laboring with eminent success for the salvation of souls, in ways not deemed canonical by the church established according to law. We do this in support of the principle of religious liberty, which is one of the objects recognized in our constitution; which instrument also authorizes us to work in countries where Christianity has been corrupted by other causes than the Romish apostacy. In Sweden it has been corrupted by the fatal leaven of Rationalism, which is of late powerfully assailed by many whom God has raised up to preach his holy truth, and whose testimony he is sustaining by copious effusions of his Spirit upon their proscribed "conventicles."

The King of Sweden, a liberal monarch, is quite favorable to a full concession of the rights of conscience; and urged upon his Parliament, at its late session, the passage of laws in accordance with his just and honorable views. Something of the sort was undertaken; but so far were the most enlightened legislators from understanding the subject, that their projected law fell miserably short of reaching the result of the emancipation of conscience. They have yet much to learn; but they are learning it. We are sure that the time draws on, when not Sweden, nor any other Protestant State, shall exhibit the scandalous inconsistency of legalizing persecution for conscience sake. As one of the old Cromwellian chaplains expressed it, "Forcing of consciences, is borrowing Antichrist's broom to sweep Christ's house with."

Mr. Rosenius, in connection with his arduous labors as an evangelist, still issues his valuable periodical, "The Pietist," which circulates eight thousand copies, with most happy effect. Mr. Ahnfelt, his fellow-laborer is a university graduate and a professor of musical science. He itinerates, like the minstrels of old; but not to celebrate the triumphs of love and chivalry, except in the exalted Christian sense. He enters a Scandinavian village, and soon draws a crowd around him by the dulcet summons of his harp. They are charmed and attracted still closer by his exquisite singing of hymns and sacred ballads. Their ears thus opened and their hearts softened, he then preaches to them Christ and the resurrection. There follows a sort of protracted

meeting, usually attended with the tokens and fruits of a pure revival of religion. The work of God in Sweden spreads apace, many instruments being raised up to carry it on, both in and out of the material church. The Gospel, as we learn by recent most interesting intelligence, triumphs in the prison and in the palace; on the scaffold, and near the throne. "A great door and effectual is opened, and there are many adversaries. "The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters."

In Norway, which has a separate constitution favoring religious liberty, but is appended to the Swedish crown, the Roman Propaganda has recently established a mission. It is somewhat helped by wide-spread spiritual destitution, occasioned by the sparseness of the population. But Italian Popery is an exotic too delicate for the Norwegian clime. It can only exist there as a forced growth, under stained glass and stimulated by imported chemical fertilizers. In many parts of Norway, too, true religion is reviving under the efforts of evangelical men, both of the clergy and laity.

BELGIUM.

In this remarkable country, where, not many years ago, Protestantism was almost unknown, there are now not far from fifteen thousand converts organized in churches, besides a much larger number who hear the truth, and are intellectually convinced of the errors of Popery. Recent events show that there is a rapid waking-up of the public mind upon this subject. While many are recoiling so far from the abyss of superstition as to fall into the gulf of infidelity, others are anxiously seeking the better way, and asking for "the old paths" of evangelical verity. In the large cities of Brussels, Liege, Ghent, and Antwerp, as well as many lesser places, "there has arisen no small stir about that way." The excitement has been much increased by the vehement efforts of the priests to put it down. They have called in the aid of orators and of mobs, but in either case have been sorely discomfited. The Bishops, in endeavoring to break down the State Universities which are not under their control, have roused a spirit of resistance. Our evangelical brethren have stood nobly to their posts during all these agitations, and have never before

seen such signal signs of the Divine blessing upon their endeavors. We have this year somewhat increased the amount of assistance it is our privilege to dispense to them. But if the good work grows upon their hands as it has done latterly, we must do much more for them, or have our very hearts broken because of the inability to do so. More than two hundred converts were added to the fellowship of the churches last year, and there is an immediate prospect of large accessions.

FRANCE.

This country is, perhaps, the largest and most inviting field of missionary labor which now stands open anywhere in the world. If the Apostle Paul were to resume his life and works on earth, it may be well doubted if there is any place to which he would hasten so eagerly for the resumption of his ministry as to Paris. Wonderful city! Rich as Antioch and Corinth—cultured and full of art as Athens—mighty and politic as imperial Rome—and as worldly, sensual, demoralized, and godless as all those ancient capitals, where the Apostle to the Gentiles spent his strength in preaching Christ crucified! Yes, to Paris would he go—to that “golden gateway of hell”—and there put forth the whole energy of his preaching and his prayers. For Paris, and then France, once converted to the pure and simple Gospel, it would need but little more to annihilate the Papal imposture, and to furnish the world with the means of salvation.

To meet the wants of the numerous Americans who sojourn, many of them quite permanently, at Paris, the Society has sent the Rev. Dr. KIRK, of Boston, to provide for them a suitable place of worship. Released temporarily for this purpose by his attached people, he reached Paris early in April, and has been occupied ever since with abundant industry in executing his commission. On his arrival he found that two noble-minded Americans had made themselves responsible for the purchase of the Anglican Church in the Rue d'Aguesseau, and were impatiently awaiting his arrival to confirm the purchase in behalf of this Society. It appeared, however, that this transfer of the property would cause great pain and discontent to our English brethren, who were in great distress on account of it. On this ground mainly, though

there were other good and sufficient reasons, Dr. Kirk relinquished the bargain. This act was most cordially acknowledged, on behalf of his countrymen, by Lord Cowley, the British Ambassador at the French Court. The relinquishment was made with the cordial approval of the public-spirited gentlemen who had pledged themselves for the purchase of that edifice, and who actively took part with Dr. Kirk in the steps that were immediately taken to build another house of prayer. Land has been purchased, eligibly situated in the Neuve Rue de Berri, near the Champs d'Elysees, the plans and specifications are drawn, the building contracts signed, and the work actually commenced, to be completed, if the Lord will, in October next. This edifice will be far superior to that in the Rue d'Aguesseau in every respect, without costing us any more. We have already made large payments on this undertaking, and shall be obliged to call loudly and earnestly on our liberal countrymen to enable us to meet the obligations it was necessary to assume. We fondly expect that this Church of Americans in Paris will give new vigor and fresh impulse to our work of evangelization in France; and that, besides its benefits to our fellow-citizens there, it will yet prove to be the most important missionary station which the churches of America have ever planted in any foreign land.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kirk, who is acting with the warm support of the American Ambassador at Paris, and has not omitted to secure the needful authority under the laws of France, preaches in the Taitbout Chapel, the use of which has been most fraternally conceded to us till the new place shall be done. The title to the latter rests in the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, which also has the appointment of the minister. This latter duty will always be performed with thoughtful regard to the reasonable wants and wishes of the worshippers. It will be a place of the gravest responsibility, and one where the right man (and only God can find him for us) would be in a position of the highest usefulness.

As one consequence of the difficulty of properly filling this important place, the Board have not ceased to deplore the death of the Rev. R. S. S. DICKINSON, who was under appointment to this station when he died at Edinburgh, at the early age of thirty-two. He was in a few days to have gone to Paris, to commence the

duties of the post to which he had been designated, and for which he possessed many peculiar qualifications. But it pleased God, whose ways are not as our ways, but are infinitely higher in wisdom and goodness, to take his young servant to himself. He made a peaceable and godly end.

We have continued this year our wonted aid to our brethren of the Evangelical and Central Societies organized at Paris. The Evangelical Society is sustained by those churches in France which choose to act independently of State patronage and supervision; or, as it is termed, work "on the voluntary principle." This body of Christians is small and poor, but full of spirit and zeal. They number not much more than twenty churches and a few thousands communicants, mostly poor. They are Calvinistic and Presbyterian in sentiment; though of late quite a number of their pastors seem to have embraced antipædo-baptist views. Still, their differences on this point do not appear to have interrupted their harmony. As they have not many "friends at court," the power of petty and local persecution has fallen very heavily upon their mission stations and recently formed churches. After a four years' struggle, they have succeeded in getting the interdict of the civil authority removed from most of their schools and churches which had been closed. Still, their relief is not yet full and complete. In several places they continue to be deprived of the rights of worship and of instruction for their children; but they are contending manfully for these precious rights, and in no instance have abandoned the struggle. Preachers and hearers have been fined and imprisoned, but "have taken joyfully the spoiling of their goods," and are "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of the Lord Jesus." They have never suspended their conscientious worship of God, though forced to keep it up with more or less of secrecy. In spite of all opposition, they are gaining ground; and within a few weeks, they have built and opened a large and beautiful church in the "Latin Quarter" of Paris, with good accommodations for schools and a pastor's residence attached. This has been a bold enterprise on the part of a few ardent Christians. A heavy debt rests upon it, which it is hoped that American liberality will help to remove.

The Central Society is supported by the evangelical portion of

the National Protestant Churches of France, which are not Lutheran. The Lutheran churches are nearly two hundred and fifty in number, mostly located in the north-eastern section of France, which was acquired by conquest in the time of Louis XIV. Their religious rights have always been protected by the treaty of annexation. The *Reformed* churches, as they are called, are the *reliques* of the noble Huguenots, who make such a figure in the history of France. They, in regard to creeds and profession, are Calvinistic Presbyterians. But it is well known that Unitarianism has made frightful havoc among them; so that a few years ago the great majority had departed from the faith of their fathers. There has been, however, an extensive reviving among them of late years; and a majority of the "consistories," or Boards of elders of the local churches, it is believed, are now on the side of the great doctrines of the Reformation. The missionary operations of these brethren, though sometimes impeded by the local authorities, have not been interfered with so harshly as those of the Free Church brethren. They have succeeded, during the year, in establishing several new centres of worship.

The Board, this year, has given a new extension to its efforts in France, by an appropriation of one thousand dollars to the Committee of Evangelization at Lyons. In this great and important city is one of the most active and prosperous churches anywhere to be found. It appears to be in a state of continuous revival. There are above six hundred communicants and twenty-five hundred hearers in its different places of worship, of which a new and large one has just been opened. This church sustains seventeen ministers, evangelists, and teachers, besides much gratuitous labor by zealous officers and members. Much of this labor is bestowed on neighboring towns, in one of which, Sain Bel, the poor brethren have been grievously oppressed by certain wicked magistrates, who have "stretched forth their hands to vex them." The trial of their faith has been nobly sustained thus far. It will prove to be more precious than gold.

GENEVA.

This place of renown in the "wars of the Lord" still continues its missionary activity, through the judicious and energetic mea-

tures of its Evangelical Society. They employ thirty-five laborers at twenty-five stations—all but two, we believe, in France, and these two in the French territory of Algeria. Quite a number of these good men are supported by remittances from our treasury; and we long to see the day when we can largely augment the means which are so well expended. Our Genevese brethren are anxious to do much more in France, "that land of faith and infidelity, that Rama of the children of God, where there are more people than in all North America, and where the Protestants are less in number than half the population of the State of New-York."

At some of their stations a furious persecution has been endured; but the effect has only afforded fresh proof that "persecution is the bellows of the Gospel, to blow every spark thereof into a flame." Our Genevan friends say that "the work grows upon their hands, whether they would have it or not." Would that we could help them to "go forward!"

THE WALDENSES.

This interesting body of disciples, whose faith and sufferings are known throughout the world, is still actively spreading the leaven of the Gospel. They are but a small remnant—less than twenty thousand—and yet they find but scanty subsistence in their rough Alpine valleys. This leads to considerable emigration into more inviting parts of Italy, and this again helps the diffusion of the evangelical leaven. A printing-press has been established at La Tour, a means of usefulness which has never before been conceded to them. They have this year completed large and commodious churches in the important cities of Nice and Pinerolo, and have also been allowed to make considerable progress upon their long-interdicted edifice at Genoa. They have, besides this, instituted two new and most promising stations for evangelization at Asti and Alessandria, not to speak of several other places of less note. The most exact calculations that can be made, show that at least *twelve hundred* persons have forsaken Romanism, and attached themselves to the evangelical worship; and among these are *two hundred and sixty* who have become

communicants. We are happy to learn that the money we have sent them has been a most timely and acceptable aid.

SARDINIA.

The region inhabited by the Waldenses is a part of the Sardinian territory; nevertheless, it is convenient to speak of them separately in this view we are now taking. In addition to what the Waldenses are doing to propagate the true faith, there are some very devoted disciples, who call themselves "Italian converts," and are zealously engaged in the same good work. The Italian Committee at Geneva printed last year ten thousand Italian New Testaments; nor did they do this without knowing by what means they were to be circulated.

Among the Sardinians, a fine race of men physically, the Italian character seems to be "rehabilitating" itself. Under the elevating influences of constitutional government, and very liberal institutions and ideas, they are becoming the hope of Italy. And yet this hope—that the unity and glory of Italian nationality is to be recovered under the lead of Sardinia—is doomed to perish in disaster and despair, unless Sardinia, in escaping from Romish thralldom, also shuns that wild infidelity which borders so closely on Papal superstition. It is not political resolution which can save that people, but only the Bible, faithfully followed as the rule of life and manners. It is said that there is a strong and intelligent party, favored also by many of the priests, who are ready to press upon the Sardinian Parliament some measures of religious reform but little short of what Luther demanded of old. The action of the Government in secularizing the conventual estates, a measure which had become necessary in order to preserve the Government itself, has provoked a bitter opposition from the higher clergy, and also from the Pope. This has tended to widen the growing breach between that people and the Papal See. Moreover, the hostile feeling existing between Sardinia and Austria, at present the most fanatical and servile supporter of the claims of the Pope, has not tended to heal that breach.

TUSCANY.

The people of Tuscany are prosperous, and are under quite a paternal government, which does not oppress or overburden its

subjects, except in the matter of the rights of conscience and religious liberty. Since 1849, thirty-three persons have been imprisoned or exiled, and above a hundred others have been harrassed by the police, for little else than reading the Bible. And yet the truth gains ground. In Florence there is a church of more than a hundred and twenty members, and another, quite large, in the town of Pontedera; and the Government, in a published admonition to the priests, declares that it is positively assured of the existence of ten thousand Protestants in Tuscany. In spite of every obstruction, the Bible is circulated with much activity, and does its own good work in its own good way. Blessed be God for his glorious instrument, the Bible!

THE ROMAN STATES.

In the three legations which form the Pontifical States, or the Pope's temporal kingdom, the signs of progress are not so visible as in some other parts of Italy. Yet here, too, are found a few witnessing monuments of the truth and grace of God. It is an impressive comment upon the beauties and blessings of a sacerdotal government, that two of the Roman States are in the military occupancy of the Austrians, and the other is in the armed possession of the French. Were it not for the overpowering presence of these intrusive foreign soldiers, the people would not yield for a day to their grievous oppressors. If it were left for the native Romans to decide the matter for themselves, it is certain that neither Pope nor cardinals would ever be seen within their walls again.

In Rome itself the Lord has a small and timid remnant, trembling between the perils of the Confessional on one side, and of the "Sacred Office of the Holy Roman Inquisition" on the other. They are obliged to resort to extreme secrecy and various expedients to evade the keen vigilance of the priestly police. We have heard of a few cases of conversion there this winter. One was a French monk, apparently very sincere, whom some Christian friends succeeded in smuggling away to France before his change of sentiment had become much suspected. Other converts, *under very peculiar circumstances*, which may not be publicly mentioned, have caught more than a glimpse of the truth, and are rejoicing

in its light. The Holy Scriptures, in considerable numbers, though meant to be excluded with jealous care, are introduced into Rome; and the means by which this is done are wonderful in the last degree, and indicate God's watchful eye over the course of his Holy Word. But of these things we are not at liberty to speak.

The Board has continued to foster its chapel at Rome for the use of American residents and visitors there, and it has been attended during the past winter with unusual interest and zeal. The place, though very unfavorably located, has often been too small for the numbers in attendance. If it could be established under favorable circumstances, this service would nearly or quite sustain itself by the voluntary donations of the worshippers. The chaplain, the Rev. E. EDWIN HALL, has discharged his duties to the highest satisfaction of the Board, as well as to the warmest approbation of our fellow-countrymen and others at Rome. It is expected that he will continue in this important service, for which he is eminently qualified, for several years to come.

It is a novel and interesting feature in our operations this winter, that the use of our chapel for one of the Sabbath services was given to our brethren of the Church of England. It is known that the English have a chapel largely attended by their countrymen, also by many American Episcopalians, *outside* the gates of Rome. This exclusion from the city proper is felt as an indignity put upon their religion. Besides, the religious complexion of the worship in it was thought to be too much tinged with what is called Puseyism. For these reasons many desired to take part in the privileges afforded by our chapel, which was most cheerfully conceded; and the Rev. Mr. FORBES, a pious and evangelical minister of the Anglican church, has ministered there to the great satisfaction of a large number of his countrymen, as well as of our own. This measure has tended to produce a happy and fraternal state of feeling among Christians of different nations and denominations in religion. It has also been observed with surprise and high commendation by many distinguished personages of the Roman community, and has tended to abate their exaggerated notions as to the alienations of the Protestants among themselves.

NAPLES.

The further you go toward the southern extremity of the Italian peninsula, the more does the character and condition of the people appear to deteriorate, till you come to the "Kingdom of the Two Sicilies." Sunken as the people are, however, they have not fallen so low as to be altogether insensible to their miserable plight. They would gladly, if they could, break off the iron yoke of the military despotism, which crushes them as only some of the oriental nations are crushed. The pauperism and demoralization of that country are a shame to the civilization of modern Europe. According to the governmental returns, the average number of murders in Naples, year by year, is *one hundred and seventy-four to each million* of the inhabitants. And yet the Popish journalist, Brownson, has the temerity to say, that in respect to crime and immorality, "Naples is paradise in comparison with New-York or Boston.*" Surely the force of bronze can no further go!

SPAIN.

At the beginning of the year the Board had considerable expectation of doing something for the spiritual good of this unhappy country. The recent presence of Mr. DE MORA, and the information communicated by him, induced them to make an appropriation, to be expended under his direction, in helping the press to do its work of illumination there. The country had apparently made great advances in good government, in the suppression of undue wealth and domination on the part of the priesthood, and in asserting the claims of civil and religious liberty. But, all of a sudden, this progress was arrested by a reactionary course on the part of the Government, whereby the liberal party were driven from power and thrown into the utmost peril. Mr. De Mora himself was assaulted in the public streets and cast into prison, from whence he barely escaped with his life into England, where he has published an affecting narrative of his sufferings and deliverances, which narrative has been reprinted in this country. The priestly faction has its own way once more, and Spain still "bides her time."

* Brownson's Quarterly Review, April, 1857, p. 223.

AUSTRIA.

This empire, made up of disconnected races, and kept together by the policy of employing each race to suppress the others, is something like the iron pavement in some of our streets, where the castings are so contrived that each piece firmly holds down all the pieces next to it, and is held down by them in return. The young Emperor gave up all the ecclesiastical rights which his imperial fathers had with difficulty wrested from the imperious grasp of Rome, and in the celebrated *Concordat* cast himself and his unwilling vassals at the feet of the Pope. The clergy, however, have not gained as much as they expected by this disgraceful treaty, the officers of the empire having succeeded in putting some practical checks upon its workings. It is also constantly rumored, that at Vienna and elsewhere great numbers of persons of some consideration, and many priests, are going over into the Reformed and Lutheran churches, impelled to this step by their disgust at the *Concordat* and its concomitants. We are credibly informed, also, that Protestantism is receiving constant accessions in the provinces of Hungary and Bohemia. In the former, there has always been a strong Protestant interest, and in the latter the spirit of Huss and Jerome has never been wholly burnt out. These movements are not so much seen in the Italian provinces; but there, too, is a deep discontent with their political and religious oppressors, working secretly and angrily in the popular mind.

BAVARIA.

From this monarchy we have nothing cheering to report, except an occasional conversion to the truth. On the other hand, many of the Lutheran pastors there, in a fever of zeal for what they call "churchliness," which is very near of kin to Popery, have undertaken to establish the confessional and its attendant abominations in their churches. The Protestant people strongly resist these measures, and present the strange spectacle of Protestants petitioning their so-called "Roman Catholic" rulers to protect them from the ghostly impositions and Popish tendencies of their own spiritual guides. Such is the depraved proclivity of human nature, that reformation itself needs often to be reformed over again.

CONCLUSION.

Without reporting further upon the condition of countries where there exists a Papal population calling for the kindly intervention of those who love their souls, and also love the Gospel in its purity and life, we pass to our closing summary. On a review of the year's operations of the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION abroad, the following facts present themselves:

The Board have maintained their operations in Sweden, Piedmont (among the Waldenses,) and in Switzerland, during the year, as heretofore, and a portion of the time in Brazil and Chili, in South America.

In Ireland, (and they have greatly modified their operations there,) Belgium, France, and Hayti (in the West Indies,) they have increased the appropriations formerly made. Consequently, in those countries there has been a proportionate increase of the number of laborers employed, and of those upon whom the salutary influences of Gospel truth have been brought to bear.

Churches have been organized, chapels have been built, new missions commenced, many thousands of children gathered into schools, (week-day and Sunday-schools,) and many individuals hopefully converted to Christ, many of whom, doubtless, will act as missionaries, and do much to extend evangelical influences among the Papal populations around them.

In addition to the increased operations in France, through "the Committee of Evangelization in Lyons," (a new enterprise on the part of the Board,) an American chapel, with encouraging prospects of its speedy completion, has been commenced in Paris. The influence which this achievement will exert upon the advancement of pure Christianity in continental Europe cannot fail to be of a most extensive and salutary nature, if carried out according to its sacred design; and it must be regarded as one of the most important missionary movements of modern times in the Foreign Field.

The prospects in the Foreign Department are brighter and more encouraging than ever before; and the results of the year's efforts within it are *in advance* of any preceding year. The same is true, as has been shown, in the Home Department.

The pastors, teachers, evangelists, Bible-readers, and other laborers sustained in the Foreign Field, are in number SEVENTY—an advance of EIGHTEEN upon the number reported at the last anniversary. The whole number employed during the whole or parts of the year by the Society, both at home and abroad, is ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE—twenty two more than was reported the previous year.

Thus, as the husbandman, when he has finished the labors of the year and gathered in the fruits of his toil, sits down to estimate the profit and loss of his husbandry, taking notice in what respect his crops may have failed, and learning wisdom for the future, and as he rejoices over all his successes, and holds his harvest-feast with his family and friends, and gives thanks to the bounteous Giver of all—so we have sat down to our reckoning of the year's results, and have invited our brethren of the household of faith to join us in mourning over the wide and unreclaimed desolations of the Papal field, and to rejoice with us in the rich blessings wherewith God has been pleased to crown our labors, and those of our friends at home and abroad. Let us resume our efforts with greater depth and tenderness of holy feeling for lost souls, assured that though we plow in tribulation, and sow in tears, we shall reap in joy, and the harvest shall be wide as the world. Let us acknowledge that it is God who giveth all the increase, and to him be all the praise.

APPENDIX.

THE REV. DR. DICKINSON.

The Rev. Dr. DICKINSON, of Boston, Mass., has labored for the Society in New-England several years. He has had excellent opportunity for examining the state of things in relation to our work in that portion of our country. The following communication from him to one of the Secretaries is therefore well worthy of careful perusal. He says :

“I have now been laboring in New-England, in the service of our Society, about seven years. I have traversed the several States extensively, with the exception of Connecticut, presenting our cause in the churches, and making collections. Most of the larger cities and towns I have visited repeatedly. I have also extensively addressed Conferences, Associations, and other Conventions of Ministers, and obtained from those bodies many testimonials to the importance of our work, and commendations of it to the confidence and patronage of the Christian community. A good deal of advance has been effected in the way of systematizing our operations, so as to secure regular contributions. I have encountered no opposition, and have found the pastors and churches, especially of the Congregational order, in general, ready to entertain the cause, and to aid it, when presented, by larger or smaller offerings. To some extent pastors have presented it themselves ; but the cases have been much fewer than has been desired, so that the spontaneous collections have all along been painfully limited. Very many of the smaller churches, not reached by any foreign agency, have contributed nothing from year to year ; and in the aggregate of collections on this field, I am sorry to say, there has been little if any advance for two or three years past. In this lack of progress, it is some, though but poor comfort, to know that we are not alone. The receipts of other Societies, also, are at present increasing but little if at all.

“This want of progress cannot be attributed fairly to diminished ability. Within a few years past the wealth of the church, as well as of the community at large, has really increased very greatly. The main reason, doubtless, is, that religion has been low : revivals have been rare and accessions to the churches few, and thus objects of time have very immoderately engrossed the sympathies of all classes. There seems at length to be a waking up to spiritual interests ; a state of things always auspicious of prosperity to the general cause of Christian enterprise. We will hope for increased liberality towards our cherished institution, as well as all other philanthropic movements.

"This, too, may be reasonably anticipated from the general character and history of New-England. It has a strictly Puritan ancestry. Its people have ever been pre-eminently enlightened, religious, and devoted to the principles of civil and religious liberty. Where shall we look for a warm and generous sympathy if not here?

"Our whole territory is coming to be overrun, also, by Roman Catholic immigrants. *More than HALF the population of Boston consists of the foreign element.* In other large cities they are counted by THOUSANDS. In all our manufacturing towns and villages they are becoming the principal operatives. In domestic and agricultural life they are the main help, and everywhere they are planting their churches—in many cases splendid cathedrals. What a change is thus going on in the character of the New-England population! how great, how rapid, how ominous of moral and social deterioration! Strange indeed it will be, if our good people are not roused to the importance of this enlightening, conservative, christianizing enterprise!

"Here, as elsewhere, there is yet a great lack of intelligent appreciation of the immense *magnitude* and *urgency* of this work, as respects both our own country and foreign lands. There is one class, though small, I trust, who are yet looking for the overthrow of the Romish power by some sudden and terrific stroke of Divine wrath. They err in the interpretation of Scripture. They seem, also, to forget that the predicted destruction may be made as complete through the spread of divine truth and the effusions of the Holy Ghost, as by any judgments of heaven, however sudden and awful. They seem, also, to forget that should the seat of 'the Beast' be literally engulfed, the evil would not be annihilated—that Romanism has spread itself over nations and continents, and is mixed up with the social, religious, literary, and governmental institutions of a large part of the civilized world. How can they dream of a literal desolation? To be complete, it must be a catastrophe akin in extent, almost, to the flood of Noah's time.

"There is another class, whose stereotyped plea for inaction is, that ROMANISTS ARE INACCESSIBLE; such are their prejudices of education, and such their subjection to priestly domination, that all efforts for their conversion must be fruitless.

"They have hope of heathen incomparably more degraded and more completely crushed by a base priesthood. It is in vain we tell them of the wonderful reformation of the sixteenth century—of a missionary work now going on in Ireland, which is withdrawing five thousand persons a year from the Romish communion—of our *own prosperous operations in several foreign Papal countries—of our abundant and successful labors in this land*; tracts and Bibles distributed; thousands of families visited, instructed, and many of them prayed with; Sabbath-schools of from ten or twelve up to fifty and a hundred children and adults, maintained by our laborers; prayer-meetings stately kept up by many of them; *more than a thousand cases of hopeful conversion* reported within a few years past; and TWENTY churches organized, made up almost wholly of converts from

Romanism. For a moment they admit it is remarkable and very encouraging, but seem soon to forget the whole, and settle back upon former impressions, and talk again of the stupidity and bigotry, and vices of the Irish, and their slavish submission to a selfish and tyrannical priesthood, and deem it proper and right to live on still in the very midst of them, by hundreds and thousands, without an effort for their salvation.

"There is, however, another class, who really appreciate the enterprise in its high aims, and in its varied, wide, and momentous bearings.

"They are familiar with its extending plans and operations. They have entire confidence in the feasibility of the great work contemplated by our Society, and contribute steadily, freely, and liberally, in aid of its benevolent and grand designs. *This class, I trust, is steadily increasing.* With patience, energy, and wisdom of management, the Society must steadily gather sympathy and confidence, and ultimately entrench itself in the enlightened good feelings of all Christian people. Then its treasury will be filled, and with the blessing of God its work of merciful evangelization will go on with steadily increasing and gladdening results among the nearly two hundred millions of deluded and perishing Papists.

"Sure we are, that we are in the line of labor contemplated in the Savior's great command, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.' And sure we are, also, that *no labor can be more decisively tributary to the grand consummation we seek and anticipate—the conversion of the world—than these efforts to recover the wide wastes of christendom, and enlist their vast resources on the side of the true Gospel and kingdom of the Son of God.* And sure, too, we are, that no providential teachings were ever plainer or more emphatic, than those which now point us to Papal countries and communities as fields of missionary enterprise. What have we to do, then, but to labor on with abundant prayer, patience, energy, and hope."

THE REV. W. D. ROSSETER.

Mr. ROSSETER is the District Secretary of the Society in the valley of the Ohio and part of the Upper Mississippi. He says:

"This month closes another financial year of service in behalf of our great and noble cause. As usual, it has been with me a year of constant labor, in the performance of which, while I have had many obstacles to meet, and very often been oppressed with sadness from various causes, still to a very considerable extent the preponderating feeling has been one of hope, joy, and faith.

EXTENT OF DISTRICT AND WORK PERFORMED.

"The territory which has been placed under my supervision is one, as you know, of great extent, large enough, indeed, for a mighty empire; reaching from the head waters of the Ohio to the mouth of the Missouri, and covering the

large and populous valleys of the Ohio and upper Mississippi. To reach all, even its most *important* points, requires almost continual travel, and necessitates my almost constant absence from home. Few *pastors* know, and a still smaller number *appreciate* the toil, and self-denials of the faithful representative of any one of the great benevolent Institutions of the day. During the past twelve months, for example, your representative in this Western District has traveled in SIXTEEN STATES, often several times across their entire territory,—has visited and addressed 166 different congregations—preached 114 times, and delivered, besides these, 101 addresses,—has visited 52 Sabbath-schools—in doing which he has traveled exactly 8,900 miles.

“ Besides the foregoing, he has called upon 4,507 families, and written 375 letters in regard to the nature, objects, results, and wants of the work in this field.

“ Such an amount of labor, as all can see, has permitted but little time for study or rest, and actually none for recreation and recuperation. I have done it cheerfully, aye gladly, because duty has seemed to demand it; and a conviction of the shortness of my time on earth has continually impressed me that ‘whatsoever my hand findeth to do, I must do it with my might.’

POPULATION.

“ It is known to the Board that this Western valley, including both its north-western and south-western portions, has been the point, *the great centre*, to which has been gravitating the immense foreign population who have within the last few years sought a home with us. Numerous causes, not only in Europe but in New-England, have conspired to this end. This population has no homogeneity of character with our people, being a heterogenous mass from various nations of the old world, and with the crudest ideas of the nature and character of our institutions.

“ Irish, Germans, Swedes, Hollanders, Welsh, Danes, Norwegians, French, and Italians have been crowding and still fill our ears, steamboats, and stages; all seeking homes in the ‘GREAT WEST.’ The Irish and Germans form the larger portion of this group, a very large proportion of whom are infidel and Romanist in their religious proclivities and associations. Can, then, the importance of such a work as that of the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION be exaggerated, as it seeks specially to take the Gospel in its simplicity and purity to the deluded strangers? And how important that this work be done *promptly*—now. These crude, discordant, and chaotic elements need the light and life of a spiritual christianity. And in the outset of their coming among us,—when everything is in such marked contrast with the habits of life and thought in their old homes—when the free air they here breathe has such wonderful, vitalizing, moral properties, making men and women of those who have so long been the merest mental vassals—when at every avenue and corner they witness the results of our freedom and of our Protestantism—O how important the *present time* to the easting in of the Gospel *seed* among them, that ‘not many days hence’ the

Gospel *harvest* may be reaped! O that I could impress this thought—the *importance of the present moment*—upon the entire body of Christians in this land;

WORK ADVANCING.

“I rejoice to feel that the churches in this District are waking up more and more, as years elapse, to a realization of their duty in this regard. Tho past year, I am gratified to report, has witnessed a growing interest in our great work, and a more extensive spirit of *co-operation* than I have ever before seen. The pulpits of the different evangelical churches have been more generally open to us than at any previous time; and notwithstanding the two or three severe monetary crises of the year, the collections are a little in advance of the previous year. This is cheering. May this spirit of co-operation extend, until this cause shall receive the cordial and appropriate support of all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and souls, in this great western valley—yes, throughout the world.

MISSIONARY LABOR.

“In the progress of our *missionary* work in this field, we have had, as was to be expected, many difficulties to encounter. Our’s is a peculiar work. In addition to the native depravity of the human heart, and the opposition to truth, which it invariably presents, (and which is of itself always potent enough for evil,) we have had to encounter the most inveterate priestly opposition—to meet their most ingenious countervailing efforts and influences, added to the wonderful strength which that complex and hoary system of Romanism can bring to bear upon us.

“Our *Missionaries*, as well as *those* who are beginning to think for themselves and to see the errors by which they have been so wretchedly and so long duped, are often violently assailed by speech and other agencies of mitred priests and their poor deluded followers, who, like rabid dogs, are set on to bite and devour them. O, it is no wonder that the number who renounce that anti-christian system is comparatively so small, when we survey the obstacles which are ever thrown in their way—the difficulties they have to encounter. They who renounce it have to face persecution, obloquy, poverty if not starvation, and this from the moment they attempt to burst the fetters which have so long held them in ‘*durance vile*!’ It is no wonder that the hands of our self-denying Missionaries often hang down and their hearts grow discouraged, in view of these things!

“O, sir, could the work of these worthy men be seen, and known, and appreciated by the friends of the Gospel in this land—could their self-denials and toils,—their toil amid scenes of vice, and crime, and filth, in the cellars, and garrets, and alleys of our great cities, from which the chaste eye and feeling heart ordinarily turns away aghast and sick, but which are scenes of ordinary occurrence with them—could the true friends of Christ stand by, as I have stood, and listen to the taunts and jeers, the opprobrious epithets and lying slanders hurled at them, even while in the prosecution of their labor of charity, and faith, and love,—I can but feel assured their work would receive sympathy, and they ‘be more

highly esteemed for their work's sake.' Many of them are men of liberal education, of mature years, and because 'the love of Christ constraineth them,' come down to this humble work. O, they deserve well of the church and of Christian hearts!

"The Master, however, is with them, and they are seeing the fruit of their labors, and this is their encouragement and strength. Take the cases of those immediately engaged with me in this District.

"There are six of them. Follow them, as they have gone from house to house, in the visits they have made for personal conversation and prayer with over 15,000 Roman Catholic families—*compute*, if it be possible, the *results* which have followed and will accrue from the 35,000 pages of evangelical tracts which they have read in these visits to the illiterate and erring ones, and which have been left by them with these families—look in upon their *eleven* Sabbath-schools, attended by ONE THOUSAND Romish children—visit the Industrial schools in connection with each of these missions, for the instruction of the girls who would otherwise be found prowling along the rivers, and canals, and railroads of these cities, imbibing the most immoral habits and loathsome vices, but who are *here* taught the use of the needle, that they may both learn to be useful and to aid in securing livings for themselves and their parents, in which are found over 300 of these outcast ones—spend an hour with each of the Bible-classes which these God-serving men have instituted, in connection with their labors, and observe the *mode* in which truth is taught, and the many truths of God's Word which are thus sent home to the heart at each of these interviews: once more, visit and converse with the 700 Roman Catholic families who are reading, under their direction, the Word of Life—sit down by the side of the 40 or 50 hopeful converts to Christ which they have been, under God, instrumental in securing from the ranks of these classes, and tell me, is there not *truth, encouraging truth*, in the words of the wise man: '*Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days;*' and also in those of God by his prophet: '*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*'

'Worker in *this* barren soil,—

Yours may seem a thankless toil:

Sick at heart with hope deferred,

Listen to the cheering word:

Now the faithful sower grieves—

Soon he'll bind his golden sheaves.'

"Neither space nor time have I to go into fuller details of our Western work. Suffice it to say, everywhere it is encouraging; affording no basis for despondency, but rather and *only* for gratulation and progress. The voice of the Lord plainly is, so far as the West is concerned, 'Say ye to my people, that they go forward.'

'Soon, they shall confess their sheaves are great,
And shout the blessings home.'

METROPOLITAN CATHOLIC ALMANAC.

This work is published by Romish authority in the city of Baltimore, Maryland. Its statistics, facts, reasonings, advertisements, and all other matter, must therefore be supposed to make a fair representation of the Romish system, as at present existing in this country. The phases under which it makes Romanism appear, are not the productions of an enemy. Bishops, priests, monks, nuns, publishers, booksellers, and manufacturers, of Romish faith, in good standing, give the views that are given.

The following things taken from the Almanac for 1857, will probably be viewed with surprise by many Protestants. The wonderful expansion of the Papacy among us in numbers, and the large amount of agencies, in the form of funds, churches, colleges, newspapers, et cetera, for giving it greater expansion and power, will strike the uninstructed on these topics with surprise; but the notice of their so-called "church furniture," "vestments," or rigging for their officials, and some others—and of their "religious articles!" such as "rosaries, on brass, steel, gold, or silver chains," "miraculous medals," "holy water fonts," statues and "statuettes of the blessed Virgin Mary," and such like, of "St. Joseph to match," etc., etc., will excite more than surprise. Few of the Protestant community, we think, will be able to see any warrant in the Gospel for these things, or for crosiers, censers, and bread-irons, chimes, and gongs, in that spiritual worship which the Gospel reveals and enjoins. But all can see in them a materialising and paganizing of the religion of the Son of God: effectually destroying its power, robbing it of all its glory as a means of salvation, and making it an instrument of delusion and eternal death. We give first the number of

Romish Periodicals.

The Romish periodicals in the United States, in English, French, and German, are *seventeen* weekly newspapers, one monthly, one biennial, one quarterly, and two annuals.

Summary of Romanism in the United States.

The summary in the Almanac is footed up thus: 41 Dioceses, 2 Apostolic Vicariates, 2,053 Churches, 829 other Stations, 1,710 Priests in the ministry and 192 otherwise employed. 35 Ecclesiastical Institutions, 1,019 Clerical Students, 62 Male Institutions, 58 Literary Institutions for Young Men, 117 Female Institutions, 134 Female Academies, 115 Orphan Asylums, Hospitals, etc.

In regard to the "summary," the editors of the *Almanac* say:

"It follows that in the United States there are 7 archbishops, 32 bishops, 1,872 priests, and 2,053 churches, distributed among 41 diocesses and 2 apostolical vicariates, and showing for the past year an increase of 111 priests and 143 churches. During the year 1 bishop and 24 priests departed this life, and besides these, 163 whose names appeared on the catalogue of 1856, are not reported for 1857: whence it appears that the total accession of priests during the year was 298."

Romish Theological Seminaries.

NAME.	PLACE.	Stud'ts.
Theological Seminary of St. Sulpice.....	Baltimore, Maryland.....	32
Novitiate of the Society of Jesus.....	Froderick, ".....	20
Georgetown College.....	Georgetown, D. C.....	21
Mt. St. Mary's Theological Seminary.....	near Emmitsburg, Md.....	26
House of Studies of Redemptorists.....	Cumberland, ".....	36
Theol. Seminary of St. Charles Bor.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	27
Augustinian Monastery of St. Thomas.....	Villa Nova, ".....	2
Benedictine Abbey of St. Vincent.....	Latrobe, ".....	56
Theological Seminary.....	near Cincinnati, Ohio,.....	22
Dominican Convent of St. Joseph's.....	near Somerset, ".....	9
Dominican Convent of St. Rose.....	near Springfield, Ky.....	6
St. Mary's Ecclesiastical Seminary.....	Cleveland, Ohio.....	23
Congregation of the M. Precious Blood.....	Thompson, ".....	—
St. Charles' Ecclesiastical Seminary.....	near Vincennes, Indiana.....	16
University of Notre-Damo.....	Notre-Dame, ".....	—
Ecclesiastical Seminary.....	Wheeling, Va.....	7
Ecel. Seminary of St. Vincent of Paul.....	Lafourche, La.....	12
Theological Seminary of St. Louis.....	Carondelet, Mo.....	27
Novitiate of Society of Jesus.....	near Florissant, Mo.....	22
St. Louis University.....	St. Louis, Mo.....	16
St. Mary's Seminary.....	Barrens, Perry Co., Mo.....	20
Theological Seminary.....	St. Paul, Minnesota.....	4
Ecclesiastical Seminary.....	Springhill, Ala.....	5
St. Joseph's Theological Seminary.....	Fordham, N. Y.....	28
Eccles. Seminary of St. Francis of Sales.....	Milwaukee, Wis.....	43
Mt. St. Bernard's Theological Seminary.....	Dubuque, Iowa.....	—
Dominican Convent.....	Sinsinawa Mound, Wis.....	—
St. Thomas Aquinas' Seminary.....	San Francisco, Cal.....	7
Dominican Convent,.....	Benicia, California.....	5
Diocesan Sem. of Na. Sa. de Guadalupe.....	Santa Ynes, California.....	10
College for the Propagation of the Faith.....	Santa Barbara, ".....	3
Diocesan Seminary.....	Chicago, Illinois.....	—
Passionist's House.....	near Pittsburg, Pa.....	9
33		514

"*Remark.*—Besides the number of students here designated, there are about 225, partly in Institutions abroad, but chiefly in establishments of the regular clergy at home.

"In several of these Institutions the course of study is not confined to theology, but embraces the preparatory branches."

Incorporated Romish Colleges.

NAME.	PLACE.	Students.	Founded.
Georgetown College.....	Georgetown, D. C.....	312	1791
Mt. St. Mary's College.....	near Emmitsburg, Md.....	190	1808
St. John's College.....	Frederick, Md.....	90	1829
Loyola College.....	Baltimore, Md.....	160	1852
St. Mary's College.....	Wilmington, Del.....	95	1839
Villa Nova College.....	Villa Nova, Pa.....	—	1844
St. Joseph's College.....	Philadelphia, Pa.....	150	1851
St. Xavier College.....	Cincinnati, Ohio.....	150	1840
St. Joseph's College.....	Bardstown, Ky.....	243	1819
St. Mary's College.....	near Lebanon, Ky.....	100	1821
University of Notre Dame.....	Notre Dame, Ind.....	128	1842
St. Charles' College.....	Grand Coteau, La.....	100	1838
College of the Immac. Conception.....	New-Orleans, La.....	240	1847
St. Louis University.....	St. Louis, Mo.....	300	1832
St. Vincent's College.....	Cape Girardeau, Mo.....	118	1839
University of St. Mary of the Lake.....	Chicago, Ill.....	—	1844
St. John's College.....	Fordham, N. Y.....	190	1841
Springhill College.....	Springhill, Ala.....	186	1830
Sinsinawa Mound College.....	Sinsinawa, Wis.....	—	1846
College of St. Andrew.....	near Fort Smith, Ark.....	50	1849
Santa Clara College.....	Santa Clara, Cal.....	130	1851
St. Joseph's College.....	near Somerset, Ohio.....	—	1851
St. Mary's College.....	Columbia, S. C.....	100	1852
College of the Immac. Conception.....	Plaquemine, La.....	150	1853
Academy of Brothers of Christian Schools.....	St. Louis, Mo.....	—	1855
College of St. Francis Xavier.*.....	New-York city.....	205	1847
College of the Holy Cross.*.....	Worcester, Mass.....	86	1844
Mt. St. Mary's College.....	Cincinnati.....	20	1856
St. Vincent's College.....	near Latrobe, Pa.....	90	1853
29		3583	

Besides these, there are said to be 20 colleges and high-schools not incorporated, having 1,019 pupils.

"Religious Orders and Congregations

"Employed in the instruction of youth in the United-States.

MEN.

Society of Jesus,
 Congregation of the Mission,
 Order of Preachers,
 Order of St. Benedict,
 Order of St. Augustin,
 Society of the Holy Cross,
 Oblates of Mary Immaculate,

Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer,
 Brothers of the Christian Schools,
 Brothers of Christian Instruction,
 Order of St. Francis,
 Brothers of Mary,
 Xaverian Brothers,
 Brothers of the Holy Family.

"* These two Colleges, though not chartered by the State, confer the usual academical degrees by diplomas from other institutions."

WOMEN.

Ursulines,
 Daughters of Charity,
 Sisters of Charity. (New-York.)
 Sisters of Charity, (Cincinnati),
 Ladies of the Sacred Heart,
 Sisters of our Lady of Mercy,
 Sisters of Mercy,
 Sisters of Charity of Nazareth,
 Sisters of Loretto,
 Sisters of the Visitation,
 Sisters of Notre Dame,
 School Sisters of Notre-Dame,
 Sisters of St. Joseph,
 Sisters of Charity of the B. Virgin,
 Servants of the Immaculate Heart of
 Mary,

Sisters of the Holy Cross,
 Benedictine Nuns,
 Sisters of Providence, (France,)
 Sisters of Providence, (Canada,)
 Third Order of St. Francis,
 Sisters Pretiosissimi Sanguinis,
 Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary,
 Congregation of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.
 Dominican Nuns,
 Ladies of the Incarnate Word,
 Sisters of the Propagation of the Faith,
 Sisters of St. Bridget,
 Oblates Sisters of Providence (colored),
 Sisters of the Presentation.
 Sisters of our Lady of Charity of the
 Good Shepherd.

These men of 14 orders have in charge 24 colleges, with 3,128 students; 14 academies, and 859 students; 70 free schools, with 13,862 pupils, according to their footing up; and—

These 30 orders of nuns have charge of 34,594 children, according to the Almanac.

A TABLE

Showing the progress of Romanism in the United States, from 1808 to 1857.

YEARS.	Dioceses.	Apostolic Vicariats.	Bishops.	Priests.	Churches.	Stations.	Ecclesiast. Institutions.	Colleges.	Female Academies.
1808,	1	----	2	68	80	----	2	1	2
1831,	11	----	10	232	239	----	9	6	20
1841,	16	----	17	482	454	358	13	9	47
1850,	27	----	27	1081	1673	565	29	17	91
1854,	41	2	39	1574	1712	746	34	20	112
1855,	41	2	40	1704	1824	678	37	21	117
1856,	41	2	40	1761	1916	895	37	24	130
1857,	41	2	39	1872	2053	829	35	29	134

Church Furniture.

VESTMENTS.

Vestments, per set, of cotton velvet, the cross of satin, . . .	\$12	to \$18
“ “ of damask, cross of satin, with flowers, . . .	15	to 30
“ “ of better damask, with flowers, the cross richer ornamented,	25	to 50
“ “ of gold cloth, imit., plain or with flowers. the cross with flowers,	28	to 70
“ “ of fine silk, or silk damask, plain or with flowers, the cross very richly embroidered, in Gothic or Roman style, the galloons “mi-fin,” “fin,” silver or silk, . . .	40	to 100

Vestments, per set; of silk velvet, the cross splendidly embroidered, the galloons "fin,"	\$70	to \$140
" " of gold cloth, with splendid embroidery, galloons "fin,"	120	to 200
Dalmatiques of the same style. with one stole and two maniples, to about double the price of a set of Vestments.		
Capes, of black cotton velvet, with silver embroidered,	28	to 50
" of damask, plain or with flowers,	35	to 70
" of gold cloth, imit., plain or with flowers,	45	to 100
" of fine silk or fine silk damask, galloons "mi-fin," "fin," or of silver or silk,	75	and upw.
Veils for the Blessed Sacrament, richly ornamented,	5	to 20
Veils for Benediction, of different colors and quality,	15	to 60
Stoles, " " " " " "	4	to 50
Canopies and Banners for processions,	35	to 100
Albs and Surplices, plain or fine embroidered,	6	to 30
Altar Lace, plain or with religious symbols, per yard,	37	to 4
" " interwoven with gold or silver, or with flowers of different colors, per yard,	4	to 8
Cinetures, white or red,	75	to 150
" for Bishops, green, with fine gold,	15	to 25

 A very large assortment of Crosses for Vestments; also, of Galloons and Fringes, etc., just received!

Altar Furniture.

Ostensoriums, gilt rays, 18 inches,	\$16	
" " 20 " fine chasing,	22	
" " 22 " " "	\$28	to 32
" all gilt, 22 " " "	40	to 45
" " 22 " " set with stones,	45	to 55
" gilt rays, 24 " " "	38	to 42
" all gilt, 24 " " "	50	to 55
" " 24 " " set with stones,	58	to 65
" gilt rays, 28 " " "	50	to 56
" all gilt, 28 " " "	58	to 65
" " 28 " " set with stones,	65	to 75

 The same styles will be furnished of *solid silver*, at various prices.

Ostensoriums, German style, 24 inches, set with stones, and very richly ornamented,	\$16	to 50
" German style, 26 inches, set with stones, and very richly ornamented,	63	to 75
" German style, 25 inches, extra fine workmanship,	85	to 95
" " 25 " " " "		
" of solid silver,	220	to 260
" German style, 30 inches, extra fine workmanship,	120	to 150
" " 30 " " " "		
" of solid silver,	270	to 320

Chalices, plated for Missions, from 7 to 9 inches, . . .	\$9	to \$12
“ “ small sizes, from 9 to 10 inches, . . .	13	to 16
“ “ medium size, from 10 to 11 inches, . . .	15	to 18
“ “ large size, from 11 to 12 inches, . . .	18	to 22
“ silver cup and pat. for Missions, from 7 to 9 inches, . . .	15	to 20
“ “ “ small size, from 9 to 10 inches, . . .		
“ “ “ fine chasing, . . .	24	to 32
“ “ “ medium size, 10 to 11 inches, . . .	27	to 36
“ “ “ large size, 11 to 12 inches, . . .	33	to 45
“ “ “ all gilt, medium size, extra fine chasing, . . .	35	to 45
“ “ “ all gilt, large size, ex. fine chasing, . . .	45	to 60
“ solid silver, small size, extra fine chasing, . . .	40	to 48
“ “ medium size, “ “ . . .	48	to 65
“ “ large size, “ “ . . .	60	to 100
Ciboriums, of the same style, to nearly the same prices.		
Chapels, containing Chalice, Ciborium, with silver cup, all gilt; also Cruets and Altar Bell, . . .	150	to 200
“ containing the above articles, of solid silver, . . .	220	to 270
Cruets, with stand, plated, small size, . . .	7 50	to —
“ “ “ medium size, . . .	10	to 12
“ “ “ large size, richly chased, . . .	12	to 16
“ “ all gilt, “ “ . . .	22	to 30
“ solid silver, with fine plated stand, richly chased, . . .	30	to 35
“ with stand, all of solid silver, richly chased, . . .	48	to 55
Crosier, with leather box, . . .		75
“ extra fine chasing, fire gilt, . . .		150
Procession Crosses, silver plated, . . .	12	to 15
“ “ partly gilt, . . .	16	to 24
“ “ “ larger, fine chasing, . . .	25	to 35
Sanctuary Lamps, silver plated, 7 to 8 inches in diameter, . . .	10	to 12
“ “ “ 8 to 10 “ “ . . .	13	to 16
“ “ “ 10 to 12 “ “ . . .	18	to 27
“ “ “ larger, and ornamented in Roman or Gothic style, . . .	33	to 50
“ “ “ large size, different styles, . . .	60	to 100
Censers, silver plated, small size, . . .	7 50	to 9
“ “ medium size, . . .	10	to 12
“ “ large size, fine chased, . . .	12	to 18
“ “ “ extra chased, fire gilt, . . .	22	to 28
Holy Water Pots, with asperges, plated, small size, . . .		8
“ “ “ medium size, . . .	9	to 10
“ “ “ large size, . . .	13	to 16
“ “ “ still larger size, . . .	16	to 20
Oil Stocks, silver plated or gilt, . . .	2 75	to 3 50
“ solid silver, . . .	6	to 10
Pixes, silver plated or gilt, . . .	2 50	to 3 50
Pixes, solid silver, . . .	4	to 8
Bread Irons of different sizes and prices.		

Altar Cards, of different sizes,	\$50 to \$5
“ “ with metal frame, fire gilt,	15

Stations of the Cross.

Chimes and Altar Bells.

Candelabra, gilt, 5 burners, 27 in., very richly chased, . . .	30
“ “ 6 “ 30 in., “ “ “	45
“ “ 5 “ 34 in., ex. fine workmanship,	60
“ “ 10 “ 30 in., “ “ “	75

Brass Candlesticks, with symbols of the Holy Trinity on the foot, per pair of

16 inches,	\$ 6 00	28 inches,	\$16 50
18 “	7 25	30 “	18 50
20 “	8 75	32 “	21 50
22 “	10 50	34 “	25 00
24 “	12 00	38 “	30 00
26 “	14 50	42 “	36 00

Crucifixes to correspond are of the same price as a pair of Candlesticks.

The same Candlesticks and Crucifixes will be furnished, “silver plated,” at a slight advance on the price.

Tubes to insert the candle in, of different lengths.

Candlesticks, gilt, in gothic or other styles, or other extra fine articles, will be imported to order, at the shortest notice and at the lowest prices. To facilitate persons in giving their orders, a number of designs are kept for inspection.

If any of the Church Furniture should not suit the wishes of the purchasers, they may be exchanged at any time within a fortnight from the date of delivery.

Wax and Incense.

Wax, pure sun-bleached, per cwt.,	\$48 00 to 50 00
Wax Candles and Tapers, white, per lb.,	75 to 80
“ “ “ “ painted or embossed, per lb.,	1 10 to 1 50
Paseal Candles, plain or ornamented, at similar rates.	
French Incense, 1st qual., named ‘de la terre sainte,’ per lb., . . .	1 20
“ “ 2d “	75

Statues for Churches and Oratories.

MUNICH STATUES.

All Painted and Partly Gilt.

				<i>Height.</i>	<i>Price.</i>
Mary, Queen of Heaven, and Infant, - - -	-	-	-	5 feet 8 inches,	\$140
“ “ “ “ “ “ - - -	-	-	-	4 “ 5 “	90
“ “ “ “ “ “ - - -	-	-	-	3 “ 4 “	50
“ “ “ “ “ “ - - -	-	-	-	1 “ 10 “	20
“ “ “ “ “ “ seated, - - -	-	-	-	3 “ 4 “	70
“ Immaenlate Conception, - - -	-	-	-	5 “ 4 “	85
“ “ “ “ “ “ - - -	-	-	-	4 “ 4 “	70
“ “ “ “ “ “ - - -	-	-	-	3 “ 4 “	50
St. Joseph with the lily, - - -	-	-	-	5 “ 8 “	85
“ “ “ “ “ “ - - -	-	-	-	3 “ 6 “	50

	<i>Height.</i>	<i>Price.</i>
St. Joseph with the lily, - - - - -	1 feet 11 inches,	\$20
" " " " and with the infant, - - - - -	4 " 5 "	75
Christ in the Resurrection, - - - - -	4 " 0 "	66
" " " " - - - - -	2 " 4 "	33
" " his Sepulchre, - - - - -	4 " 3 "	77
Ecce Homo seated, - - - - -	4 " 8 "	120
St. Peter and St. Paul, - - - - -	5 " 8 "	125
St. Aloysius, - - - - -	4 " 6 "	66
St. Patrick, - - - - -	4 " 6 "	75
Guardian Angel, - - - - -	2 " 5 "	50
Infant Jesus in a standing posture, - - - - -	2 " 5 "	30
Station of the Cross, frame carved in oak, height 5 feet, breadth 3 feet 2 inches, - - - - -		50
Birth of Jesus, relief, height 3 feet 2 inches, - - - - -		20

PARIS STATUES.

Our Lady of Victories, white borders gilded, - - - - -	4 feet 4 inches,	\$40
" " " " painted " " - - - - -	3 " 4 "	50
Mary, Immaculate Conception, white borders gilded, - - - - -	4 " 6 "	55
" " " " " " " - - - - -	3 "	30
St. Joseph, " " " - - - - -	3 "	30
St. Vincent of Paul, " " " - - - - -	3 "	35
Infant Jesus, all gilt, - - - - -	1 " 9 "	25
Guardian Angel, white, with gilt borders, - - - - -	2 " 4 "	28
Adoring Angels, " " " " a pair, - - - - -	3 "	80
" " " " " " - - - - -	4 "	120
Virgin Mother, with Infant, carved in wood and all gilt, - - - - -	3 " 5 "	45
" " " " " " - - - - -	2 " 8 "	40

"The packing is done in the best manner; but the risk of breaking rests on those to whom the goods are directed."

"Religious Articles."

"Engravings, an immense variety of their own manufacture, including Altar, Baptismal, Confirmation, First Communion, and First Confession Cards, Lace Pictures, etc., etc., with English, German, and Latin text.

Beads, also of their own manufacture, Pearl, Garnet, Cornelian, Cocoa, Ivory, Wood and Glass on silver, silver plate, steel or brass chain.

Medals, Crosses and Reliquaries, of gold, silver and brass; also Crucifixes to stand, or to hang, of Brass, Ivory or Wood, of different sizes and description.

Medallions of Plastique, representing Christ on the Cross, the Descent from the Cross, Adoration of the Magi, Flight into Egypt, Holy Family, the Immaculate Conception, etc., etc., and the same representation in Bas Relief.

Holy Water Pots of China, Biscuit, or of Metal, in great variety.

Statuary in Biscuit and Wood."

The foregoing list of articles comprises a part of the materials deemed needful for the realities and forms of *Romish* worship! The advertisement describing them is put forth in the same volume which

contains the authorized statistics and records of the fasts, feasts, and hierarchy of the so-called Romish church. We give it a place that the Protestant community may see the *sensuous* and *idolatrous* nature of the worship that Papists maintain, and something of the extent to which the simple and spiritual worship which the Savior enjoined has been corrupted. It also shows to what extent the Papal system is now unfolded in this country.

Few of the Protestant community, we think, would imagine that that religion which calls for beads, chains, water-pots and sprinkling brushes, censers and chimes of bells, wax candles, muslin, velvet, and silk ornaments of fancy colors,—red, blue, and green,—images, statues and statuettes, is the religion of the Gospel. But Romanism calls for these things. Is there not reason, then, for urging missionary labors among those who adopt it?

GROWTH OF POPERY IN ENGLAND.

We take the following from the *Protestant Magazine and Quarterly Review*, for March, 1857. This work is published in London, under the direction of the Committee of the Protestant Association. The facts contained in this article are well worthy of consideration. While many Protestants in England are self-confident, and are roundly asserting that “it is absurd to suppose that Popery will gain the ascendancy” there—“that the people are too much enlightened to submit to it,” etc., etc.,—a course very similar to that which some in the United States take, while they do nothing to prevent its advancement,—it is stealthily and steadily growing in that Protestant country. The Review says:

“But to the proof that Popery has spread. In England, in the year 1780, Popery was apparently at its lowest ebb. The Rev. Joseph Berington, in a work published in 1780, upon the state of English Catholics, made the following statement:—‘*The truth is, within the present century we have most rapidly decreased. Many congregations have entirely disappeared in different parts, and in one district alone, with which I am acquainted, eight out of thirteen have come to nothing, nor have any new ones risen to make up in any proportion their loss.*’

“From a return made to the House of Lords at that time, the Roman Catholic population appears to have been about 70,000. The number of priests was 359, of whom 110 were ex-Jesuits. It will be remembered that the order of the Jesuits was suppressed in 1773.

“If the numbers of the priests and laity in 1780 are compared with those of the present time, some surprise will, in all probability, be felt, as the number of priests was at that time so much greater in proportion to the laity than at the

present time. The following reason is assigned:—there were at that period eight peers, nineteen baronets, and about 150 gentlemen in the English Roman Catholic body; each of whom, it is probable, kept a domestic chaplain, in some cases, perhaps, two. Nearly two hundred priests may have been so employed, and the rest in town and country missions. The number of chapels at this time was about twenty.*

“The civil disabilities (disabilities imposed, be it remembered, because of the treasonable principles and practices of Popery) of the Romanists began to be removed, and the College of Maynooth was endowed about the same time that the refugee priests came to England. The increase of Popery may be dated from this time. The seed began to be sown.

“ From 1780	to	1790	about	6 Chapels were built.
1790	“	1800	“	18 “
1800	“	1810	“	16 “
1810	“	1820	“	20 “
1820	“	1830	“	39 “
1830	“	1840	“	90 “
1840	“	1850	“	144 “

And now, in 1857, the total number is 730. Up to 1688 there was but one Vicar Apostolic for England: three more were at that time appointed.

“In 1840 the Roman Catholic bishops in England were doubled in number, and the country divided into eight Vicariates Apostolic.

“In 1850 the Pope, in the ‘plenitude of his apostolic authority,’ formed England into an ‘ecclesiastical province, consisting of one archbishop and twelve bishops, his suffragans;’ ‘assuming a power,’ to use the words of Lord John Russell, ‘inconsistent with the spiritual independence of the nation;’ and making ‘an aggression both insolent and insidious.’

“What has been the result? Contrast the number of chapels in England and Wales: in 1829, 397 chapels; 1847, 540 chapels; 1857, 730 chapels.

“In less than 30 years from the so-called emancipation, the number of Roman Catholic chapels has nearly doubled.

“But to enter into more minute particulars, we will compare the state of the Roman Catholic religion in England and Wales in 1847 with its state in 1857, taking a period of ten years.

“In 1847 England was divided into eight vicariates apostolic, eight bishops under the name of vicars-apostolic, taking the supervision of the Roman Catholic body.

“In 1857 the kingdom is partitioned into thirteen diocesses, under the rule of an archbishop and twelve bishops, who claim obedience from every baptized person in the land, from Her Most Gracious Majesty, as well as from the meanest of her subjects.

* In addition to these, it should be observed that there was a considerable number of *private* chapels.

"The increase in other respects will be seen from the following table:

"Statistics of the Roman Catholic Church in Great Britain in the years 1847 and 1857:—

In England and Wales	1847.	1857.	Increase.
Churches and chapels	540	730	190
Colleges	11	10	0
Convents	33	100	67
Monasteries	8	23	15
Priests	714	985	271
In Scotland			
Churches and chapels 82			
and Stations 22	104	164	60
Convents	1	6	5
Priests	98	130	32
Colleges	1	1	
Bishops and Vicars-Apostolic in British Colonies and possessions			
	38	53	15

"Is not this startling? An increase in England of 190 chapels and of 271 priests in ten years. The number of convents in England trebled, and of monasteries also nearly trebled in ten years. And shall it be said that there is nothing to be dreaded from Popery?

"In the United Kingdom there are more than twenty Roman Catholic peers; many noble lords who are not peers, some of whom, however, are heirs to peerages at present held by Protestants; more than forty baronets, amongst whom there are some extremely wealthy and influential. There are Roman Catholic Judges and Privy Councillors, and more than forty members of Parliament. The Romanists claim ladies of the highest rank in the peerage for their converts, and with too good grounds. The long list of perverted clergymen is too painfully familiar to need enumeration here. That some of them were men of good abilities and considerable learning, calls to mind the admonition of Scripture, 'Be not high-minded, but fear.'

"BRIEF VIEW OF THE PAST.

"Let us recall for a moment the past. Three hundred years ago a Popish Queen was on the throne of England—a Cardinal was at Court. Bibles were burnt at Oxford. The sepulchres of the Protestant dead were rifled. The insensate malice of the Papists, so implacable in its hate and fiend-like in its cruelty, could not rest content without committing the bodies of the Protestant dead to the flames.

"On the 6th of February, 1577, were these infamous deeds perpetrated. But the dead would not suffice. The apostle saw in a vision a woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and what he saw in vision has since been seen in reality.

"In 1557, just 300 years since, on the 15th of January, six men were burnt in

one fire in the cathedral town of Canterbury—a Cardinal being at that time the Archbishop; the same day two were burnt at Wye and two at Ashford. On the 12th of April three men and two women were burnt at Smithfield; and on the 3d of May three also were committed to the flames in Southwark. On the 7th of May two were burnt at Bristol.

June	18	2 men and	5 women	were burnt at	Maidstone.
"	19	3	4	"	Canterbury.
"	22	6	4	"	Lewes.
July	13	1	1	"	Norwich.
Aug.	2	5	5	"	Colchester.
"	5	1		"	Norwich.
"	20	1	1	"	Rochester.
"	"	1		"	Bristol.
Sept.	17	3	1	"	Islington.
"	"		2	"	Colchester.
"	20	1		"	Northampton.
"	"	1		"	Latsfield.
"	23		1	"	Norwich.
"	"	14	3	"	were burnt in the diocese of Chichester.
Nov.	18	3		"	Smithfield.
Dec.	22	1	1	"	Smithfield.

"Others, of whom the particulars are not known, also perished at the hands of the barbarous Papists. The boast of Rome is '*semper eadem*.' Yes, always the same in treachery, fraud, and cruelty, superstition, idolatry, and wickedness she is indeed, and therefore let England beware.

"The blood of the martyrs crieth for vengeance. How long, O Lord, how long dost thou not avenge our blood? When God maketh inquisition for blood, he will show that he remembereth them. Shall we forget? Shame to us if we do. Shall we train men to sow the seeds of idolatry and superstition, and escape the judgments of God? How is it possible for us to continue silent while Popery is encouraged? How can we refrain from crying out while men are sowing evil seed throughout the land? Men may become weary of us, may bid us cease; but we must again and again reiterate our warning. No peace with Rome. Beware of Rome. Partake not of her sins, lest ye also be partakers of her plagues."

ERRATA.

On page 73, in the 1st line of the second paragraph, read, *Rev. Arthur Waring D'Essex*, instead of *D'Essen*.

On page 85, in the 9th line from the bottom, read, *February*, instead of *April*.

On page 90, in the 20th line from the top, read *political revolution*, instead of *political resolution*.

Dr. AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, in account with ANSON G. PHELPS, Treasurer,
for the year ending the Thirty-first day of March, 1857. Cr.

1856.	To balance from old account,	\$1,914 53	1857.	By this amount paid for Missionary Labor, Mis-	\$39,938 14
April 1.	To this amount received from Subscribers to the Magazine, and Publications sold,	5,388 80	April 1.	stationary expenses, and preceding liabilities, etc",	
	To this amount received from Legacies,	11,262 81		By this amount paid for Salaries of the Secretaries and General Agent,	5,000 00
	To this amount received for the Chapel in Paris,	9,449 65		By this amount paid for Insurance, Interest on bond, and Repairs on Society's House,	1,923 02
	To this amount received for the Waldensian Table and the work in France,	525 00		By this amount disbursed for clerk-hire, postages, light, fuel, and incidentals,	1,954 37
	To this amount received by Donations, Church Collections, Agents, and all others sources,	47,220 14		By this amount paid for printing Magazine, for printing-paper, and books, and tracts, and for gratuitous distribution,	7,461 95
	To this amount received for rent of rooms in the Society's House,	536 00		By this amount paid for Missionary Labor abroad, outfits of Missionaries, and expenses of Missionary Station,	12,515 17
1857,				By this amount paid in Paris for the Chapel,	4,030 00
April 1.	To balance from old account,	\$76,296 93		By balance to debit of new account,	4,174 28
		4,174 28			\$76,296 93

We, the subscribers, have examined the above account, and find the same correct, and a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of four thousand one hundred and seventy-four dollars and twenty-eight cents.

MORTIMER DE MOTTE, }
DANIEL FANSHAW, } *Auditors.*

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